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Local Government Service

No. 21 SEPTEMBER, 1934 Vol. XV

ROBINSON PRIZE ESSAY

REGIONAL ORGANISATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

By WILLIAM J. MALLEY (LIVERPOOL)

As already announced, first place in Class 1 of the Sir Arthur Robinson Essay Competition was awarded to Mr. William J. Malley, D.P.A., Assistant, Staffing Section, Education Department, Liverpool County Borough. The subject was : " Assess the advantages of co-operation by local authorities in forming joint regional organisations for purposes which do not readily conform to ordinary administrative boundaries—e.g., the survey and allocation of water resources. Is it generally desirable for such bodies to have more than advisory and non-executive functions? In what respects is this system preferable to the appointment of independent 'ad hoc' authorities for those purposes?" Below we give extracts from Mr. Malley's paper.

THE chief criteria of public services, whether social or trading, are economy and efficiency. Economy, however, is a word often confused in the minds of many people with parsimony instead of being regarded as wise spending. Without any financial retrenchment whatsoever, the formation of larger areas for those services and functions which do not readily conform to the existing administrative areas would result in a number of true economies—i.e., the attainment of efficient standards of operation with minimum expenditure, but it is difficult to classify the benefits derived from regional administration and allocate them to either of these two criteria. It has long been recognised that large scale organisation in industry reduces overhead charges per unit of output, and this is equally applicable to public utility services, such as the supply of water or electricity.

Purchasing and Standardisation

Large scale purchasing, which would result from co-operation, would enable supplies to be obtained at reduced prices for improved quality. The standardisation of equipment and spare parts for replacement (such as of buses in the transport department, or taps and other fittings in the water department) are other factors which would result in less expenditure and improved facilities. In the event of a single unit being formed, such as a water board, the increased resources of the combined areas enable a higher salary to be paid to the chief officials and more able men to be secured in competition with other areas.

The degree of success accruing from the application of such methods appears to me to vary with the service under consideration and with the means adopted by the areas to secure co-operation. An admirable example of saving for all the reasons considered above is seen in the case of water supplies. In an area which calls for organisation on a regional basis, it is possible for each individual authority to establish its own source of water supply, but more economical to combine together and build a single reservoir of adequate size, controlled by a joint committee, to serve the whole area. An alternative to this solution of the problem is for the largest authority in the area to assume

MR. WILLIAM J. MALLEY

responsibility for the supply of water to the whole of the district and for its sale to the smaller surrounding areas at an agreed price.

Transport is another service which does not recognise administrative boundaries, and it seems absurd to the man in the street that, in a built-up area, public transport vehicles should stop at the municipal or county boundary instead of running straight through and allowing him to continue direct to his destination. Co-operation with the object of eliminating this difficulty could also effect economies in operation and of late a number of extra-boundary services have been conducted, with the sanction of the Ministry of Transport, by a number of local authorities. Generally speaking, lack of co-operation is evident from the absence of co-ordination and much inconvenience now occasioned by the lack of arrangements for through tickets and by separate time-tables drawn up without reference to one another, would be eliminated if some system of co-operation were instituted.

Education and Hospital Services

In higher education and hospital services, co-operation between authorities would enable specialisation in a particular branch of work to be carried on in one single area. Each area could then concentrate on one aspect of the service and the improved facilities arising therefrom would be available for the whole area. The tendency of local authorities at the present time to attempt to execute services of this nature on a broad instead of a specialised basis means that much waste and overlapping occurs.

In political affairs, however, it is usually easier to recognise administrative difficulties than to evolve means of dealing with them; the problems arising from the urbanisation of England are no exception to this rule. Several methods by which co-operation may be obtained have been devised, ranging from the complete merging of the individual identities of the authorities concerned to a tenuous bond which is almost ineffective, and from an application to the whole of the activities of the authorities to a limited consideration of one or more single functions. The incorporation of the area into a single unit, however, is not a co-operative action save for the approval by the several authorities of their own demise and will not, therefore, be dealt with in this essay.

Types of Joint Committees

Whatever degree of co-operation is adopted, it must be conducted by some kind of organised body, and several methods of forming this organisation have been suggested and put into operation. Firstly, we may have the formation of a joint committee composed of representatives of the constituent authorities, having complete financial independence; examples of this type are to be seen in port sanitary authorities and water boards. Secondly, there are joint committees performing executive functions, but unable to act in financial matters without reference to their parent councils.

Thirdly, there are joint committees between county councils for specific purposes, such as higher education. Fourthly, there are joint committees composed of representatives from constituent authorities with power merely to advise their parent councils in relevant matters; and, finally, we have co-operative action betwen authorities simply by agreement.

Which of these types is most suitable for general adoption? The reply to this question is that no single type can be regarded as most satisfactory, but that each problem must be dealt with separately, having regard to the service which it is desired to co-ordinate and the areas which are willing to join in the scheme proposed. If the areas are approximately equal in size and power, a joint regional committee composed of representatives from the various areas will work very satisfactorily. Should one area predominate in size or power, it may resent being allocated the same number of representatives as the smaller areas, if this arrangement is adopted. Should proportional representation be suggested, the smaller areas may fear that they will be out-voted and that their views will be ignored in any decisions reached.

Generally speaking, however, the former system is the most satisfactory one, provided that the more important decisions, committing the areas to possible heavy expenditure, are subject to ratification by the district councils. In the creation of joint boards, care should be taken to guard against the tendency of nominated representatives to consider the interests of their particular areas rather than those of the region as a whole, but the wise selection of

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ROBINSON PRIZE ESSAY

(*Continued from preceding page*)

members by the district councils would minimise this danger. This would be balanced to a certain extent if advantage were taken of the power to co-opt experts on the newly constituted bodies, who would be able to advise on any matters calling for detailed knowledge of the subject under discussion and who would tend to consider the matter from a broader standpoint.

A Major Problem

In any transfer of power to a regional committee, one of the major problems associated with such transfer is the degree of independence to be granted to the committee. Is the joint regional body to be given autonomous control of the function concerned, or is its duty merely to advise the constituent authorities as to the best course which, in its opinion, should be taken? Or, again, should a constitution be drawn up giving it a status somewhere between these two extremes? To give full independence to such a body is dangerous, for major changes in policy may be carried out without let or hindrance, involving the constituent areas in unexpected and undesired expense; yet to restrict its functions to the rôle of an advisor would probably be equally disastrous, for stagnation may result owing to the fact that few people care to consider problems in the abstract whilst being unable to influence the decisions as to whether or not they shall be brought to fruition, and without being able to superintend the actual working-out of their plans and to make any minor amendments which may appear desirable. Furthermore, in this case, the refusal of one authority in the group to adopt the advice of the joint committee might result in the breaking-down of the whole impulse towards co-operation in the area.

Compromise has always played an important part in English politics and a regional organisation with limited executive powers, but under the control of its constituent area councils in such matters as capital expenditure would, in my opinion, be the most satisfactory solution to the problem. The freedom of the organisation in executive matters generally would make its members feel that any thought and energy applied by them to the work in hand would not be wasted and would lead to useful results.

As in the case of the form which a regional committee should adopt, no rigid rules can be prescribed regarding the degree of freedom to be allowed, and each function or service will have to be considered independently. For example, in the case of the supply of water, it is essentially desirable that the joint committee shall have entire freedom of action save in the launching of schemes requiring much capital expenditure. The creation of separate sources of supply for each authority as an alternative, with agreement between the authorities to assist one another in cases of emergency, is neither efficient nor economical. This objection also applies to such services as the supply of gas or electricity.

Transport Co-operation

In the case of transport, however, beneficial results could be obtained by simple co-operation between authorities without the formation of an over-ruling committee, despite the fact that transport is the service which least recognises present administrative boundaries. Some form of committee, however, is desirable, and, although good results would be derived from simple co-operation, the most satisfactory basis would be to give it executive authority over the whole of the public transport services in the area.

It may be asked whether, in the event of a decision that a public utility would be best administered on a regional basis, the most suitable organisation for this purpose would not be an independent "ad hoc" body? Such a body could be nominated either entirely by the government or jointly by various interests and political groups in the area, or it could be elected by direct means. The last form of selection has, however, been tried in the past and has failed.

There has latterly been a movement towards placing the important public utility service under the control of "ad hoc" bodies composed of members nominated by the government and other groups interested in the particular service. Widely diverse services such as electricity supply, broadcasting, and passenger transport in London are now administered by boards which have no definite responsibility towards the people such as that held by Ministers of the Crown. It has sometimes been said that committees or boards of this type would be the best means of solving the problems which have arisen owing to the expansion of boroughs and the urbanisation of the contiguous rural areas.

Ad hoc or Elected Bodies?

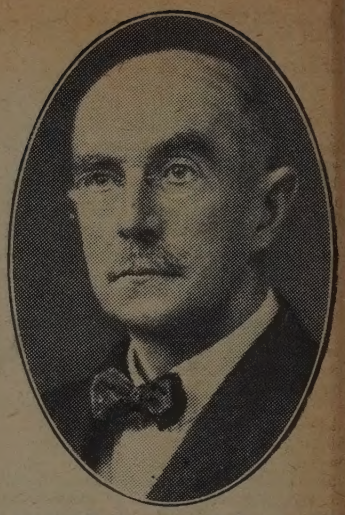
Opinion is sharply divided between the claims of the "ad hoc" bodies as opposed to those of elected bodies; individual thought in this matter is largely influenced by one's ideas as to the effectiveness or otherwise of the present nominally democratic system of central and local government. If one is willing to be governed by a bureaucracy controlled by an independent caucus, the vote is cast for an "ad hoc" body on modern lines; if one still believes in the necessity for a measure of popular control over the administrator, and feels that this can be attained through popular election, the decision is for a body elected directly or indirectly by the people.

Earlier in this essay, the conclusion was reached that, in the case of such services as the supply of water, a joint committee with executive functions was the most effective means of securing the necessary co-operation of local authorities. Such a committee would be more effective than an "ad hoc" body if the representatives of the constituent authorities on the committee carried out their duties in the spirit of co-operation as well as in the letter, and devoted their minds solely to the realisation of the common good. This arrangement would meet with public approval to a much greater extent because an "ad hoc" body is usually more remote from a sense of public needs and it is more difficult for the average man to make his voice heard in its deliberations. An "ad hoc" body with absolute freedom to issue precepts on a local authority would be extremely dangerous, for it is desirable that local authorities should have some measure of control over the spending of the money they are required to raise.

Popular Control Necessary

Another disadvantage of independent "ad hoc" bodies is that the removal of the final control of the administration of the more important public utilities from the local authorities would restrict the field of its activities and tend to make business and professional people less interested in local affairs. This trend is even now evident as the result of the ever-increasing interference of the central authorities in the affairs of local authorities and in large cities it is becoming more and more difficult to find men of wide vision and of high ability willing to give their voluntary services to the task of administering local matters in their area.

If "ad hoc" bodies are formed, they should not have entire independence and some means of ensuring that there is adequate popular control with maximum efficiency must be devised. It may happen that a wider application of the principle of forming joint regional bodies for the purpose of co-operation may result in its recognition by the government as a means of dealing with the problems arising out of the urbanisation of England, and that the appointment of "ad hoc" board as a method of administering the civic public utilities will then be limited to those which have solely a national basis; for example, the British Broadcasting Corporation.



SIR ARTHUR ROBINSON, G.C.B., C.B.E.
Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Found of the Essay Competition.

ANTHOLOGY OF WIT

AN ANTHOLOGY OF WIT (Messrs. Macmill and Co., 2s. 6d.) is a small volume containi humorous chapters and essays taken from t works of well-known authors belonging different periods. These selections are groupe under four headings: people, occasion thoughts, and adventures. At the end of t book there are some interesting notes relati to the writers and their works. Mr. G Boas, the compiler, is a man of excelle discrimination, and his choice is so wide a varied that no one could fail to find somethi in this book to suit his own particular tast Here you will meet such men as Jonath Swift, Alexander Pope, and Joseph Addiso together with writers of different ages, such Charles Dickens, or G. K. Chesterton a Harold Nicolson.

If you like to take your amusement in sma quiet sips, then you will experience th inward glow of delight when you turn to Charl Lamb, extracts from Mrs. Gaskell's "Cra ford," and A. A. Milne. Or you may be a ma who shows his appreciation in another way- perhaps you prefer those authors who make yo chuckle maliciously at the foolishness of life- and in that case, who could suit you better tha Jane Austin, Lytton Strachey, or "Q" "Jargon"? Or if you cannot show yo amusement unless it be accompanied by loud roar, you must read about "Harris in t Maze" by Jerome K. Jerome, "The Ana chists" by Ian Hay, and A. G. Macdonald satire entitled "The Disarmament Commi sion." In fact, the only man who could n enjoy himself with such a book is he who beyond all hope of redemption—the man wit out a sense of humour.—*B. H.*

FOR ALL CLASSES OF
VACANT APPOINTMENTS
in the
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION
See the Official Columns
of the
"MUNICIPAL JOURNAL"

ANOTHER BEANO!

Cheltenham Branch's Effort for 1935 Conference

The Cheltenham Branch of N.A.L.G.O. has appointed a strong working committee to watch the interests of the B. and O. Fund, and this committee has forthwith decided to publish once more the N.A.L.G.O. Annual known as BEANO. Councillor Edward J. Burrow has been appointed Hon. Editor and Manager of the production, and it is confidently expected that a "Beano" Annual worthy of the best traditions of Cheltenham as a printing centre of national fame will be produced.

The second "Beano" Annual will have the advantage of the experience gained in the course of last year's publication, and will be bigger and brighter than ever.

The 75,000 N.A.L.G.O. members throughout the United Kingdom will realise that every shilling paid for the "Beano" Annual goes, without deduction, except for the cost of printing and prizes to contributors, to swell the B. and O. Fund, and considerable competition will ensue amongst the branches to show the largest record of copies sold to members for this laudable purpose. In every case, the branch will be credited with the amount raised by the sales of the 1935 "Beano" as a subscription to the Fund from their area; and in addition those who purchase the N.A.L.G.O. Annual, will, as before, share in the opportunities afforded by the handsome list of awards which are to be won by those holding magazines with a certain number printed therein.

In every way, the 1935 "Beano" will be not only worthy of, but an advance on its predecessor, and it is hoped that every branch will begin, even now, to think about the number of copies they can and will dispose of amongst their members for the benefit of the B. and O. Fund.

MANCHESTER and DISTRICT AREA EDUCATION COMMITTEE

As a result of informal discussions between representatives from branches in the area served by the Manchester University, an area education committee has been formed to interest itself in the educational welfare of the local government officers. Nineteen branches have so far identified themselves with the committee.

The policy of the Committee is being directed to the consideration of University courses in administration, to the establishment of study and research groups, and to any other educational activities that are likely to be of cultural value to the local government officer. The immediate concern of the committee, however, is to bring within the reach of all officers who desire it, a university training in public administration.

In order to stimulate further the interest of officers in this question, a programme of lectures is being arranged by a Joint Committee formed of representatives of the area education committee and of the Manchester Regional Branch of the Institute of Public Administration. Four open meetings are to be held during the winter in Manchester's new Central Library, and eminent experts have been invited to discuss interesting aspects of administration. Well-known members of central and local government circles have consented to preside over the meeting.

Seaham Branch's Outing

The annual outing of the Seaham Branch was held on Thursday, June 21, when, in spite of the unsettled weather, a most enjoyable day was spent in the Lake District, visiting Ambleside and Ullswater.

THE TRAINING OF THE JUNIOR OFFICER

By J. S. COVENTRY (GLASGOW)

THE Hadow Report, it is to be hoped, has drawn attention to the fact that present ideas on the training of junior officers must be reconsidered. The factor which has, more than any other, rendered this necessary is the failure on the part of elective bodies to realise the peculiar requirements of the public service.

This is obvious when we examine the comprehensive and well-considered training which the civil servant receives. It is a great misfortune that the local government machine had not developed sufficiently by 1850 to merit examination by the Trevelyan-Northcote Commission a year or so later. This commission, it will be remembered, initiated the purification of the civil service, then, and for some time after, cursed with patronage and jobbery.

"Undesirable Influences"

It cannot be said that the methods of appointment now prevailing in the local government service are so obnoxious as those of the mid-nineteenth century civil service, but no impartial person will deny that searching scrutiny at an earlier date and the institution of recognised and compulsory examinations would have prevented many undesirable influences from persisting to the present day. The Hadow Report has been welcomed as better late than never, and it certainly is.

The question of training is our main concern. At present many unenlightened individuals, some of whom are to be found within the service, think that general officers, whose work demands no specialised or vocational training, should merely stagnate. This view is met with most frequently in larger authorities employing a great number of clerical officers whose work, in itself, does not call for supplementary training. This is the grade in which promotion is slow and uncertain, in which enthusiasm perishes, especially if the slow system of promotion is tainted with patronage.

What course is suitable for this grade? Obviously, such a course as provides an antidote to the unfortunate conditions which create disillusionment and lack of enthusiasm. It must also dispel the narrow departmental attitude which is so characteristic of that grade which has no opportunity of surveying the local government machine as a whole. The course must also encourage self-criticism, thereby eliminating any tendency to bureaucracy, which does persist here and there to our great detriment, and to the great satisfaction of reactionary persons.

The Commercial Outlook

Before deciding what course fulfils these requirements, let us examine the existing state of affairs, always keeping in mind the fact that we are considering the case of *general* and junior clerical officers. At present a strong bias exists in favour of commercial accountancy, mainly because, till recently, there has been no alternative course. The irrelevant nature of these courses, for our purpose, is admitted by most people, including the students who take them.

Some may still urge, however, that there still remains the advantage of acquiring the commercial outlook and acumen. We see these operating in the elective bodies when it is decided, in the interests of economy, to save one thousand pounds on slum clearance even if the ultimate cost, through increased public health expenditure and building charges, considerably exceeds this sum.

Another striking example of the commercial outlook is to be found in the amazing recommendations of the "Ray Committee." The commercial outlook is too expensive and short-sighted, and fulfils none of our requirements. We must look elsewhere.

The Hadow Report gives us a lead. It makes mention of diplomas or degrees in public administration, and in a manner which indicates approbation. Readers of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE will have read the committee's case for training in public administration. Courses in public administration exist at the Universities of London, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield, and Glasgow.

Students who have taken a course in public administration will agree that it possesses those qualities which we have already mentioned. The enthusiasm for the course, which exists among its students, is in amazing contrast to the positive dislike of their studies which exists among officers who are taking commercial courses. That is, perhaps, the most conclusive evidence which can be offered in favour of any course—the enthusiasm of its students. It is to be hoped, for the good of all concerned, that local authorities will encourage their juniors to take public administration.

THE NEW PHILANTHROPY

THE NEW PHILANTHROPY, by Elizabeth Macadam, M.A. (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 40 Museum Street, W.C.1.) 320 pp. 7s. 6d. net.

This book has an intriguing title and, although it is described on the dust cover as "a study in the relations between the statutory and voluntary social services," it is really much more interesting than one would believe from such prosaic phraseology.

Much has been written on the principles underlying State intervention, but this book, it is believed, is the first attempt at a comprehensive description and discussion of the relations between the much-criticised public social services and the innumerable forms of private charitable and social effort in which this country has such an honourable tradition. The writer makes many practical suggestions—some of which are highly controversial from the local government officer's point of view—for developing and improving those relations. She has decided views on her subject, but writes without political bias.

She defends state action, but believes that, to be effective, it must recognise the value of personal contacts which the official machine, in her opinion, cannot provide. In such contacts, in experimentation and research and in watching over the interests of the community, she believes that voluntary association will continue to play an important part both in national and international social progress.

The writer's own work has been mainly in Liverpool and London as head of a settlement, afterwards as lecturer in the School of Social Science of Liverpool University, and now co-honorary secretary of the Joint University Council of Social Studies and member of the Board of the International Committee of Schools of Social Work. Her experience coincides with the most fertile years of the development of the relations which she describes.

Every line of the book shows the hand of the expert; moreover, the expert who can look forward as well as backward. Some of her statements are, as I have said, highly controversial from the point of view of local government officers, but this makes the book all the better, for it stimulates thought, and that is what very few works of an expert character can do.

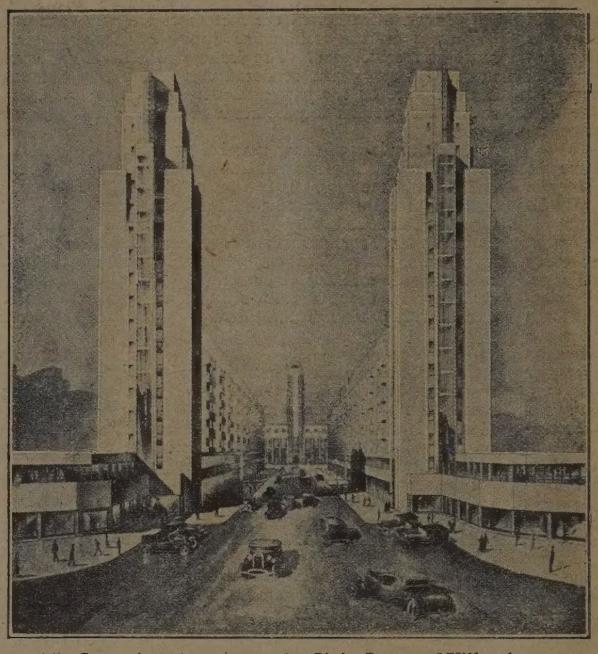
This is one of the most interesting books which it has been my pleasure to read, and I can confidently say that it is among that class of work which should be in the library of every local government officer who is interested in administration of social service and who is more concerned to ensure a more co-ordinated and effective social service in the future.—*D. J. P.*

INTERNATIONAL UNION CONFERENCE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATORS FOREGATHER AT LYONS : DISCUSSION ON THE TEACHING OF ADMINISTRATION

THE International Union of Local Authorities held its seventh conference at Lyons from July 19 to 22. On the morning of the first day—and in the absence of Monsieur Herriot, president of the Conference, who was unfortunately detained at Geneva, owing to indisposition—delegates were welcomed at the opening session by M. Huguerin, Deputy Mayor of Lyons, who expressed regret for M. Herriot's absence. Over 170 delegates of 26 nationalities were present, including no less than 16 delegates from U.S.A., representing the United States Conference of Mayors, the American Municipal Association, and the American Research and Educational Institution in the field of municipal government. The British Local Government Delegation of 19 persons included representatives of the Ministry of Health, the City Corporation, the London County Council, Brighton, Edinburgh, Leicester, Manchester, Motherwell, and the Rural District Councils' Association.

In view of the character and importance of the first question (Teaching of Local Government subjects), it is not surprising that there were 21 university representatives from 12 countries. As for the second subject (Disposal of Refuse), 16 technical experts from nine different countries were present. Twelve reports were submitted on the first subject, namely, from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Holland, Italy, Poland, Roumania, and Russia. As regards the collection and treatment of refuse, ten reports, amounting to 183 pages in all, were placed before the Conference. Each of these was written by a technical officer of the country concerned, but dealt very largely with those aspects of the subject which appeal to the administrative and financial officer or member of a local authority.



The Imposing Entrance to the Civic Centre of Villeurbanne, near Lyons, which was visited by the International Conference Delegates.

Register of Lecturers

It is proposed in this brief sketch of the work of the Conference, not to summarise or extract particular arguments or specific data from the reports submitted, but rather to give a short account of the discussions and extraneous activities connected with this particularly interesting meeting. The subjects being, on the one hand educational, and on the other hand technical specialisation, to a very large extent the administrative representatives formed the audience. At the inaugural ceremony, Mr. Montagu Harris, vice-president of the Union, voiced the regrets of the Conference at the absence, owing to ill health, of Senator Wibaut, from whom a telegram was received expressing the thanks of the Union to the Town of Lyons for placing at its disposal all the necessary amenities for the meeting. Mr. Harris also conveyed the regrets of Mr. I. G. Gibbon, of the Ministry of Health, for his inability to attend.

In opening the first business meeting, Mr. Harris pointed out that one of the objects of the Union was to compile, in Brussels, a register of the names of professors and other people who would be willing to give lectures in other countries on local government administration in all its branches, and also data as to the requirements of each country as regards utilisation of the services of these lecturers.

M. Oualid, Professor in the Faculty of Law, and Deputy Director of the Institut d'Urbanisme of the University of Paris, who acted as general reporter upon the question of teaching local government subjects, opened the discussion in a long and elaborate speech, in which he described in detail the various branches of local administration. His definition of the term "Urbanism" was that it covered, not merely the planning of towns, but also all the problems that arise in autonomous territorial units. In asking the question whether it is possible to create any administrative science peculiar to local government, he pointed out that a town was a living organism, constantly changing in size and physiognomy. He recognised the existence of a multitudinous mass of doctrine applicable to municipal administration. Considering the number of different subjects embraced in this teaching of municipal administration, he was of the opinion that the instruction should be centralised.

There was a distinct difference of opinion among the professors, some advocating centralisation and others the setting-up of local centres for teaching local government subjects, the arguments in favour of the dispersal of such educational activities being the variation in the problems from region to region.

Dr. Merriam, Professor of Political Science in the University of Chicago, said that it was necessary to gather together the whole body of knowledge and apply a new synthesis. He suggested the study of such concrete questions as "the best size for a city," "the problem of the region outside the city," and "the interchange of personnel between the municipality and the state," these latter not being two separate worlds.

In explaining his report which accounted for 30 pages out of the total of 102 pages of reports, and which was praised by Professor Oualid for its exhaustive information as to the activities of all types of institutions and societies in Great Britain in regard to the teaching of local administration, Mr. L. Hill, secretary of the National Association of Local Government Officers, stated that he had neither the invitation nor the intention to deal with local government as a science, and had restricted himself to replying to the questionnaire.

Mr. Chas. Latham, member of the London County Council, asked the Conference to appreciate that in teaching the science of local government, there was a danger of segregating and separating one section of local government from another. Whereas in the early days, education, housing, public health, etc., could be envisaged each as a separate problem, now it was impossible to examine these questions individually because of overlapping. No regional or town plan could be framed without reference to the resulting questions of public health, etc. Thus, as regards administration, an officer who commences as an expert in one individual problem, finds that demands are made upon him for knowledge beyond the scope of the subject in which he has specialised. Medical officers, for instance, must become much more administrators than technicians.

At this stage in the proceedings, M. Herriot entered and was received with extraordinary enthusiasm.

M. Herriot's Welcome

When the applause had subsided, the Mayor of Lyons expressed his regret for his inability to be present from the beginning, and his pride in being able to welcome to Lyons, as friends and collaborators, the many distinguished municipal representatives from other nations. The life of cities, he said, was becoming more and more the very life of the nations, and in working within the humble sphere of the local authority, they had the satisfaction of knowing that they were assuring the progress of the human race.

The great pleasure felt by the delegates in M. Herriot's presence, was warmly expressed by Mr. Harris.

On the resumption of the discussion, Senor Sileta described the plan in Spain for extending throughout that country institutions for teaching local government subjects, and supported the proposal to set up an international panel of lecturers.

Professor Sfintescu (Roumania) stressed the desirability of giving suitable municipal instruction to the general public and to children.

Transfer of Personnel

Mr. Northcott, member of the L.C.C., remarked upon the fact that most previous speakers had been professors, and out of his long experience in local administration, congratulated Mr. Hill on his most valuable factual contribution to the subject. He pointed out that usually the responsibility for training their subordinate officers devolved upon the chief officials. Commenting upon Dr. Merriam's advocacy of transfer of personnel between government departments and local administration, he stated that whilst this was not possible generally in England, actually in London there had been an occasional interchange of officers from the Ministry.

Dr. W. Ivor Jennings (London School of Economics) supported the view that it is impossible to separate one aspect of local government from every other aspect, and criticised the selection of a number of subjects and patching them together under the name of "Public Administration." He favoured the creation, not only of a central body, but one modelled on the lines of the Institut d'Urbanisme of Paris. He feared that an international municipal

school would attract neither master nor pupil.

Senator Vinck explained that the ambition of the Union was merely the modest one of forming a peripatetic corps of professors and persons of authoratitive experience in local government for the purpose of the exchange of lectures and experience between the various countries.

University Teaching

Professor Lambert (University of Lyons) said that to-day's definition of communal science would not fit to-morrow. He desired, deliberately, to be provocative, in the hope of evolving useful conclusions from the clash of opinion. A new orientation in regard to university teaching was necessary. He deprecated the conception of uniform programmes or concentration of teaching in the capitals, and insisted upon the necessity for co-operation with technicians and practical men in the development of the new science. A sense of the importance of administrative science must be developed, and propaganda was necessary as an adjunct to the specific work of teaching. As an illustration of the advantage of bodies free from the coagulating influence of moribund opinion, he instanced the valuable work of private medical institutions.

U.S.A. Institutions

Dr. Merriam described in great detail the various types of institutions and associations and other bodies in the U.S.A. which are engaged in teaching local government subjects or studying municipal problems, or providing for individual municipalities practical assistance in the solution of their difficulties, whether of policy or internal administration.

M. Marboutin (Professor at L'Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures in Paris) spoke of the various courses given in his school for the purpose of equipping technicians with a working knowledge of local administration and an elementary knowledge of sciences that impinge upon their own particular speciality.

The Rule of Law

Mr. Wortley (Victoria University of Manchester) considered that it was essential that the rule of law should be preserved, and expressed the opinion that only a general knowledge of the legal basis underlying local government institutions was necessary. This general knowledge could be imparted by the law faculties.

M. Nevo (Paris) thought it was necessary to centralise the teaching of local government, and also favoured correspondence classes for those living in inaccessible areas.

Professor Nezard (Dean of Caen University) opposed centralisation on the grounds of the wide differences of powers of local authorities, each of which required a special technique. He considered it to be possible for people who had not passed matriculation standard to profit by courses on law.

Correspondence Classes

M. Prelot (Strassbourg), speaking of the special courses in the University of Strassbourg for the benefit of local authorities, informed the Conference that these were arranged by the University on the application of the local government officers through their association, and were held on Saturday afternoons. In his opinion, correspondence classes could not be good substitute for the personal contacts in the lecture-room.

At the end of the second day of the Conference Professor Oualid replied to the debate, and said it was not a question of training administrative or technical officers for the local government service, but of building up a body of municipal doctrine and creating a type of higher school where qualified officers of both categories might acquire a superior education which would enable them to see clearly all municipal problems in all their inter-relationships.

INTERNATIONAL UNION

IDEAL OF THE CLEAN CITY

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE'S VIEWS ON THE CLEANSING SERVICE

FRIDAY morning, July 20, was devoted to the second subject. M. Henri Sellier, Director of the French Union of Towns, presided.

Mr. J. C. Dawes, Ministry of Health, opened the debate, and emphasised the importance of collecting and keeping statistics as regards quantities, costs, etc., in a similar form in each country, so that comparisons might be made between like and like. He stated that all the data given in his report, whilst being right up to date, had been produced without writing a single letter. His report had been prepared more from the administrative than the technical point of view, and from that angle the acid tests of a service were whether it was both efficient and economic. The data contained in his report represented an effort to show that in England the authorities were endeavouring to stand up to these tests. In return for the compliment paid to the cleansing experts who were specially invited to attend a conference where administrators predominated, Mr. Dawes, in his capacity of president of the Cleansing International, invited the latter to be present at the conference of that body to be held at Frankfurt in August, 1935.

Many subsequent speakers supported the system of controlled tipping, which, as shown by the Dawes report, was prevalent and highly successful from all points of view in England.

Points from the Reports

At the conclusion of the discussion, M. Henri Sellier submitted for the approval of the Conference a summary of the main points to be derived from the reports and discussion of which were as follows :—

1. There is no single method for the disposal of household refuse. Each town must choose the system which suits it the best, according to local conditions and the nature of the refuse.

2. Where refuse can be destroyed without incineration, particularly by controlled tipping, this latter system should be visualised as one likely to give the best results with the minimum of expenditure.

3. Refuse disposal services which are so important from the point of view of public health must be placed under the control of local authorities and not handed over to private enterprise.

4. Mindful of the constantly changing technique in the disposal of refuse, municipalities should entrust this service to specially trained officials.

5. The International Union should continuously devote itself to the collection of data on the subject, and place this information at the disposal of municipalities.

France's Biggest Teaching Hospital

During the intervals between the sessions, visits were arranged by the municipality to the premises of the Lyons Fair, the Garibaldi Swimming Bath, the Incinerator, the vast slaughter houses belonging to the town, the Grande Blanche Hospital, and the remodelled satellite town of Villeurbanne. A description of the last mentioned will be found in the *Municipal Journal* of June 29. An interesting feature of this town was the centrally situated theatre which included in the basement a delightful little swimming bath in a pleasing colour scheme, and a restaurant and café where, for France, cheap five-course meals of very good quality can be obtained. This theatre is the gift of the Constructional Company to the town. The visit to the hospital was made under the leadership of M. Herriot. This hospital, which is situated on the outskirts of Lyons, covers an area of 16 hectares, is built on the villa principle, and has a bed capacity of over 2,000. Actually, about 1,600 patients of all ages, suffering from all types of complaint, were at the moment warded in the hospital. It is the largest teaching hospital in the whole of France, has 55 lecture halls and 24 operating theatres, and has concentrated in one spot the work of some twenty hospitals which were situated in the centre of the city.

Thirteen out of the total number of 25 units have teaching clinics. All the villas are connected together by underground corridors, 10 feet wide and of similar height, where all the services (water, hot water, gas, electricity) are conveyed overhead, the pipes each being painted in different colours. The corridors are also used for the transport of meals, etc., from the central kitchen, 57 electric trolleys being used for the purpose. The total cost of construction and equipment of the hospital was 205,000,000 francs, and further capital construction works are still being carried out. The hospital is not a public hospital in the English sense, although the municipality plays an important part in the management, M. Herriot being chairman of the controlling body. Its finance is largely derived from property bequeathed by charitable persons over many centuries, and it owns, on the left bank of the Rhone, large areas of land which are continually increasing in value.

Social Functions

As a relief to the practical work of the Conference, two social functions were arranged by the municipality, and M. Herriot returned specially from Paris in the midst of ministerial crisis, in order to preside. Firstly, there was a formal reception and lunch in the Town Hall, where the guests who had been subjected to the unimaginative mass production cookery of hotels and trains were made to realise that Lyons has a highly individual and seductive tradition in the matter of cuisine. At nine o'clock in the evening a less formal function, designated *thé*, but which was really something quite different, was held in the Municipal Gardens, which included casino, café, dance hall, and artificial lake, placed cunningly in an artistic setting of trees and aquatic plants.

At the banquet at the Town Hall, M. Herriot proposed the toast of the guests and gave a special welcome to the large and widely representative delegation from the United States. He also specially thanked the delegation from Great Britain, which, he said, had accomplished so much in the municipal field. He concluded by expressing the firm conviction that if governments would listen to the advice of municipalities, they would become wiser, and instead of reflecting upon the possibility of fighting in the field of battle would lead the people to meet together as they were to-day at the festive board.

Replying for the British delegation, Mr. Chas. Latham said that what impressed him as regards the value of such a conference was not so much the detailed reports and discussions, but the bringing together in friendly association of representatives from many countries. The most terrible and menacing possibility to nations was the possibility of war, and the International Union of Local Authorities could make a contribution towards the removal of that menace.

Have you obtained particulars of the 1935 Centenary Cruise?

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BRIDGE FORUM

By NEVILLE HOBSON

ON THE CONTINENT

A RECENT journey through Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia has brought home to me the great progress of Bridge in those countries and on the Continent generally.

International Bridge Tournament

The second annual Tournament of the International Bridge League took place in Vienna last June, when ten Nations took part. Hungary and Holland shared the first place, Austria being third, and England fourth, and—though the English team played consistently well throughout—it is significant that they could only attain a position just above the half-way mark.

Whilst in Budapest, I was surprised at the interest taken in Contract Bridge, and the high standard of play, which appears to be as good in Vienna, Innsbruck, Salzburg and parts of Czechoslovakia.

The organisation of the Vienna tournament, was extremely efficient, and good sportsmanship and a generous atmosphere prevailed throughout. English was the official language for the respective games, though the majority of the players could not speak it.

Competitions

There was a special prize for the winners of the greatest number of slams bid and made. This was won by the English team, who made no less than thirteen slams out of the eighteen declared.

A personal trophy was also given for the most distinguished individual player in the tournament, and this was awarded to the Captain of the Norwegian team, which occupied the next position to England.

France

Though France did not enter a team in the above competition, a large and representative tournament was held last month at La Baule, which was well represented and produced a high standard of play. The main objective was the Coup de France, 1934, and the accommodation at the Hermitage hotel was taxed to capacity.

Switzerland

A Swiss Bridge League has recently been inaugurated, with Geneva, Zurich and Lausanne as its main centres, and representative competitions are taking place in this part of the Continent as well.

Perhaps this sketchy and necessarily superficial outline of some of the recent Continental activities will bring home the extent to which Bridge—which has hitherto been regarded as, primarily, an English and American game—has been taken up by our friends abroad. Not only has Contract Bridge found an active place among their indoor activities, but they have attained a standard of play which has been an object lesson to those who have been fortunate enough to come in contact with them.

Their attitude to English players in general certainly indicates a generous respect for our countrymen as card players, but it must now be recognised that foemen worthy of our finesses can be found in plenty on the other side of our Eastern seas.

EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD

United States Studies British Administration

Sir Henry Jackson, M.P., writes :—

It is reported that President Roosevelt admires the character and quality of local government in this country. An American commission of inquiry has been meeting in London to examine into the principles and methods of our municipal administration. Mr. L. Hill, the general secretary of the National Association of Local Government Officers, gave evidence before that commission, and it is a tribute to those he represents that he was invited to do so. Out of the chaos and distress of recent years in the United States an earnest endeavour is to be made to fashion a strong and efficient and incorruptible local government. Great Britain is the example to be studied first, and it is a theme of praise which our publicists might fix upon. We grumble much about our institutions and we are almost taken by surprise when abroad they extol what we have created.

BRIDGE "STAKES"

To the Editor of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE,

SIR,—I follow, with interest, the articles by Mr. Neville Hobson under the heading "Bridge Forum," but feel bound to object to the conclusions reached by him on the subject of "Stakes," as set out in your August Issue.

He states that the main value of a stake is its restraining influence, and at the same time, feels that the amount involved should only be small.

Now, my view is that a small stake does not restrain a reckless bidder. A large one might, but not a small one.

Again, he maintains that Bridge is a gamble. Rather would I term it a game of skill, so much so, that an "old hand" invariably triumphs over the less skilful player, and the ultimate resting place of any stakes, large or small, is a foregone conclusion.

I know that Bridge, like any other good game, is capable of being played for "love." A player who can only *play the game* when there is a "bit on," is a poor type of sportsman.

One might just as logically advocate stealing, provided the amount involved was only small, in order to restrain a reckless merchant from too freely displaying his goods. Yours, etc.—*J. Kirkman, "Sunnymead," Weir Road, Chertsey, Surrey.*

Mr. Neville Hobson writes :—

I realise that any article dealing with stakes must be controversial. I, therefore, respect the point of view of your correspondent, but still consider that the fixing of a stake has a definite restraining influence upon the great majority of players.

There are many people who will cheerily bid 3 No Trumps on quite a thin hand, who will refrain from doing so if this extravagance may possibly cost them 6d. a time. This curb clearly improves the game for all the others, and prevents colossal paper penalties being incurred for the satisfaction of preventing the other side from playing the hands.

I agree that Bridge is primarily a game of skill, and that the sounder and more experienced players triumph over others. At the same time, there is some element of a gamble in it, particularly at the point where a bid is made which the player knows is going to result in a loss. Over-bidding is fair and legitimate, but the moment this aspect of the matter is introduced, the spirit of a gamble intrudes.

I will endeavour to deal more fully with the points raised in an article later in the year.

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

THE N.A.L.G.O. correspondence chess competition, which is for the "Pullinger" Cup—to be presented to the winners at the Annual Conference, 1935—is conducted by correspondence, except where practicable and agreeable to the players concerned, when play over the board is permitted.

The entry fee for a team consisting of three players is only 7s. 6d. per team and these fees are devoted to the provision of souvenirs for the winners.

Entry forms were sent to branch secretaries on August 22 last and it is hoped that members will do their best to ensure that this year there will be a record entry and keen competition for the trophy.

Entries must be received at Headquarters by September 19, in order that the competition may commence on October 1.

BRANCH TREASURERS ARE REMINDED THAT ON AUGUST 31 THEY ARE TO REMIT TO HEADQUARTERS ALL MONEYS DUE TO THE ASSOCIATION

"HEAVENS! I'VE FORGOTTEN TO DRAW THE SALARY CHEQUES"!

TACT IN ADMINISTRATION*

FACTORS IN THE WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

I have resolved to say a few words on "Tact as a Factor in Sanitary Administration." Tact is an indispensable factor in every branch of successful sanitary administration. Thanks to those who laboured in the early days of sanitary administration, prejudices that prevailed against sanitation have largely passed away. It has now advocates everywhere.

Briefly put, the functions of the sanitary inspector as a recognised and growingly important guardian of public health are: to see that air and water reach us in uncontaminated form; to invest us with harmless indoor and outdoor conditions; to minimise the danger of infectious disease by regulating the removal of patients, the cleansing and disinfecting premises and materials; to enforce the statutory requirements regarding insanitary houses; and, in short, to remove all causes or conditions that endanger the health of the community.

Essential Qualifications

These being the duties that fall to the members of the association, what, it may be asked, are the qualifications essential to their discharge? These requirements may be summarised thus: a general knowledge of natural laws, some idea of building construction, a practical understanding of plumbing and drainage, and an accurate and thorough acquaintance with the statutory enactments bearing on the profession.

But these qualifications alone are not in themselves sufficient to make a successful sanitary inspector. He requires something more, and that something more is to be found in a knowledge of human nature and the capacity to make that knowledge subservient to the attainment of his objects. With regard to the personal qualities that make for success in sanitary administration, there is, perhaps, none so valuable as tact or manner.

It is very largely due to the influence of tact and common sense that the cause of sanitation stands so well with the public as it does to-day. The duties of a sanitary inspector are often such as to require the most delicate and tactful methods, and if he is at all resourceful, he will never fail to remember that success seldom lies in a direct line, but in a happy adaptation of means to ends.

Cause of Failures

He will find that tact is not merely a labour-saving appliance enabling him to achieve his purpose with a minimum of action, but to achieve it without friction, and in a manner agreeable to himself and those with whom he has to deal.

My own experience now over a long period is that more failures in sanitary administration arise from want of common sense than from the lack of professional knowledge. It is frequently not ignorance of practical requirements that constitutes the evil, but the incapacity of knowing how to proceed so as to bring those whose interests seem to conflict with improvement into line with our ideas.

It is a great advantage to be trained in a department where the tone is high, where accuracy and thoroughness are insisted on, where tact and courtesy prevail, where driving methods are unknown, and a strong administrative will, acting from perfect knowledge, impresses itself in order and arrangement. It is always well to keep these examples before our eyes, and any little success that may be attained can be attributed to them.

---

* From the presidential address by Mr. Alexander M'Lean, chief sanitary inspector, Renfrewshire, at the fortieth annual conference of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association of Scotland.

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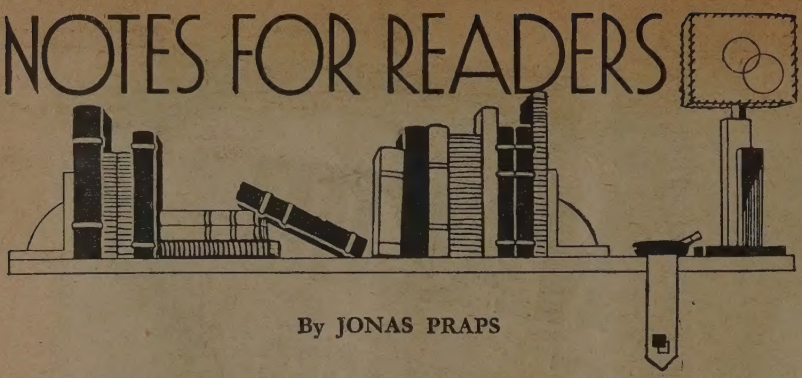

By JONAS PRAPS

ALTHOUGH dealing with a technical subject, the "Secrets of Nature" revealed by Mary Field and Percy Smith (Faber, 12s. 6d.) are told as far as possible in non-technical language. They unfold the fascinating story of how nature films are made possible by the skill, patience and ingenuity of workers in this field of science. It tells of the filming of bird and animal life—particularly in Zoos, of insect life and the preparation of microscopical films. It is all exceedingly interesting and wonderful, the most remarkable being the least attractive to the regular film-goer, that of plant photography. It is, perhaps, not generally realised that a nature film lasting only a few moments on the screen may have taken twelve months to prepare. The book is well illustrated.

Adventurers All

To the rather long list of personal adventures, must be added that of Achmed Abdullah, whose "My Nine Lives" (Hurst and Blackett 18s.), has enough thrills for more than one sitting. He seems to have gone out of his way seeking trouble and found it.

In "One lives to tell the tale" (Cape, 15s.), Edmund Gilligan gives an account of the escape of seventeen German sailors interned in Cape Town at the outbreak of war and of their subsequent adventures, sufferings and hair-breadth escapes in traversing the whole of Africa, until finally, captured by Bedouins, they reach a German camp. As a record of endurance and hardship, it is bad to beat and almost impossible to believe. The account is told to the narrator by Boatswain Ehlers, the only one to survive the ordeal, though two reached the camp. Fording crocodile-infested rivers, swimming the Suez Canal, counteracting the machinations of treacherous natives, and fighting disease, heat and wild beasts; the journey was an epic one.

Mr. Craig was a ranchman in the Chaço cattle country in Paraguay with as strong a love of adventure as of horse-flesh. In "A rebel for a horse" (Barker, 8s. 6d.) he tells of his experiences in the rebel army in Brazil which he joined not because he wished to fight or had any decided views on the cause of the quarrel but simply because of his love for his horse, which would have been commandeered in any case. He keeps his skin and his horse safe to the finish of many adventures.

China the Enigma

It is almost impossible for an Englishman to solve the enigma of China; probably most of my readers have given up the attempt. If any are persevering in the solution, "A Journalist in China" should help them: it is by H. G. Woodhead (Hurst and Blackett, 15s.). The author has spent thirty years in China and has held editorial positions on some of the leading papers there as well as on "The China Year Book." He writes with some authority, and gives his views and impressions of recent events in China as well as many personal experiences.

"The Balliols" by Alec Waugh (Cassell, 8s. 6d.) is a family history, but not of the generation to generation type to which readers have become accustomed. It begins in the early part of the twentieth century and covers the Women's War for the vote and the Great War, ending soon after. It is not overloaded with characters, the main ones are cleverly and fully drawn.

Eleven chapters dealing with various holiday recollections, complete Miss Ursula Bloom's "Holiday Mood" (Hutchinson, 7s. 6d.). It is personal in form, commencing with her early holidays as a child. Later she describes Tulip time in Holland, Rural Warwickshire, walking round the Isle of Wight. But the descriptions are not of the usual globe trotting order. There is a fund of humour in her views of landladies, hotels and fellow visitors, and some exceedingly clever comments on the places she visited.

Young and Worcestershire

A promise of a land flowing with milk and honey was given to the Israelites when they left the flesh-pots of Egypt, and there is more than a promise of delightful flowing language from the facile pen of Francis Brett Young for those who set out to sample "This Little World" (Heinemann, 8s. 6d.). There is no clash of arms, only very minor tragedy in this present-day story of life in a Worcestershire village. The characters are well drawn—particularly the major one of the squire, saddled in late middle-life with a large estate and its financial embarrassments. There are very delightful descriptive passages in the book, both of persons and places: the picture, for example, of the house-ridden village gossip and her maid peeping under the blind, purposely left "short," at the funeral cortège of the late squire—the maid supplying the details. Wife, children and villagers fill in the picture of the "little world" of Chaddesbourne.

"C. P. Scott of the Manchester Guardian" (Bell, 12s. 6d.), was more than local in his influence in political circles. Mr. J. L. Hammond tells the story of his life and of the part he took in affairs of state in the crisis of 1905, the Women's Suffrage movement, in Foreign Policy and the War.

HITLER'S POLICY

HITLER'S OFFICIAL PROGRAMME, by Gottfried Feder (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 40 Museum Street, W.C.1), 2s. 6d. net.

One of the greatest phenomena of this turmoil known as the twentieth century must be the unprecedented rise to power of Adolf Hitler. He addressed his first meeting fifteen years ago, and his audience consisted of seven men. On August 19, 1934, he was elected to the joint offices of President and Chancellor of Germany. One may well ask how it is that this peasant could have such a meteoric rise to world-wide fame and by what means he has secured the confidence and support of about eighty-nine per cent. of the German population. This book supplies a partial answer to these questions, and the remainder of the answer, one supposes, is personal magnetism. "Hitler's Official Programme" is a full and faithful translation of the fifth German edition of this book and, since it is a well-authenticated document, it merits serious study.

In this programme of twenty-five points there is nothing new. It is concerned chiefly with the "back-to-the-land" movement, nationalisation of banks and finance corporations, regulation of the "heavy" industries. Added to this is a smattering of the Douglas credit theory, particularly in relation to the elimination of the entrepreneur, creation of "time-limit" credit for public works and profit-sharing among all workers. Then there are the usual demands for regulation of private property, limit of unearned income, and so on. Point nineteen of the programme demands the abolition of Roman Law and its replacement by a German common law. What this really means, in conjunction with the whole policy of the National-Socialist Party, is a return to Greek city-state law, with, of course, local adjustments.—*D. J. P.*

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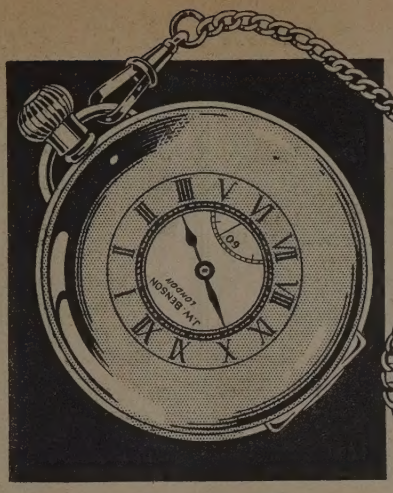

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HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been issued to branch honorary secretaries from headquarters:—

JULY 20.

Circular No. 59/Gen./1934. (*To Secretaries of County and County Borough branches.*)
Regarding the staffing of the Unemployment Assistance Board and enclosing a copy of the Board's circular issued July 17.

JULY 25.

Circular No. 60/*Gen.*/1934.
(*a*) Giving further information relating to the provision for a minimum number of women representatives on branch executive committees.
(*b*) Enclosing copies of the model rules for branches and form for setting out alteration in branch rules which will provide for the women representatives.

Circular No. 61/*Gen.*/1934.
(*a*) Enclosing two copies of the form for notification of changes in branch membership between May 1 and July 31.
(*b*) Stating that copies of the summary of the annual report should be received by the middle of August.
(*c*) Notifying branch secretaries that as many as possible of Headquarter's staff will be on holiday during August and requesting a minimum of communications.

Circular No. 62/*Gen.*/1934.
(*a*) Regarding hospital and nursing home schemes.
(*b*) Requesting prompt return of the questionnaire issued with the circular on Widows' Pensions Schemes, if this has not already been done.

Circular No. 63/*Gen.*/1934. (*To secretaries of county branches*).
Containing information relating to the organisation of county branches and especially to the organisation of transferred officers in institutions.

Circular No. 64. (*To secretaries of district committees*).
Enclosing a copy of circular number 63, and requesting the support of the district committee in this matter.

JULY 26.

Circular No. 65/*Ed.*/1934. (*To branch secretaries and local education correspondents.*).
Enclosing a copy of the rules and application form in connection with the scheme of loans for educational purposes and stating that further copies may be obtained on request.

AUGUST 15.

Circular No. 66/1934. (*To local correspondents of Logomia*).
Enclosing a copy of a circular for distribution to members and setting out a form for the requisition of further copies.

AUGUST 22.

Circular No. 67/*Gen.*/1934.
(*a*) Regarding National Rule 9—Scale of Subscriptions.
(*b*) Enclosing entry form for the correspondence chess competition, 1934/35.

Circular No. 68/*Gen.*/1934.
(*a*) Concerning Boots' Booklovers' Library service.
(*b*) Enclosing a copy of the Scales of Salaries and Conditions of Service, and stating that further copies are available.
(*c*) Enclosing a copy of the minutes of proceedings of the Annual Conference, 1934.
(*d*) Enclosing a copy of the rules and constitution of the association and stating that additional copies may be obtained.
(*e*) Enclosing a copy of the brochure "Whitleyism—Principles and Practice." Further copies will be sent if so desired.

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Wales—D. J. Parry, M.A., B.Sc., Solicitor to the Glamorgan C.C.
Scotland—G. S. Fraser, M.A., B.L., Town Clerk, Aberdeen.

TRUSTEES:
H. Begg, F.R.C.V.S., County Veterinary Inspector, Lanarkshire C.C.
S. Lord, F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer, Acton.
W. H. Whinnerah, A.C.I.S., Secretary, Paving, Sewering and Highways Department, Manchester.

GENERAL SECRETARY: L. Hill.
LEGAL SECRETARY AND INSURANCE SECRETARY: J. Simonds, M.A., Barrister-at-Law.
ACCOUNTANT: H. G. Baker.
ORGANISING SECRETARY: W. P. Fox.
EDUCATION SECRETARY: H. Slater, A.C.I.S.
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES, DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARY: H. Wright.

DIVISIONAL SECRETARIES:
Metropolitan and Eastern Districts and London County Council Branch—T. M. Kershaw, 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1. Telephone: Victoria 8592.
North Western and North Wales District—Haden Corser, 22 Booth Street, Manchester. Telephone: Central 5257.
North Eastern and Yorkshire Districts—J. B. Swinden, 12 East Parade, Leeds. Telephone: Leeds 24861.
East Midlands, West Midlands and South Wales Districts—J. E. N. Davis, York House, Great Charles Street, Birmingham. Telephone: Central 1836.
South-Eastern, Southern and South-Western Districts—F. Thomas, Room 60, Somerset House, Reading. Telephone: Reading 3880.
Scottish—J. M. Mortimer, 135 Wellington Street, Glasgow. Telephone: Douglas 404.

BOOTS' LIBRARY SERVICE

Members are reminded that their subscriptions to Boots' Library Service expired on August 1 last, and that it is necessary to renew their subscriptions immediately. Application forms for this purpose may be obtained from the branch secretaries.

Those members who do not desire to continue the service, should return their membership tokens and outstanding volumes immediately after the date of expiration. Any subscriber detaining the property of the Library beyond the period subscribed for, will be charged for such detention. Hitherto, detention fees have been charged at the rate of 1s. 3d. per month, or part thereof, in the case of class "A" and 5d. in the case of class "B." In future, these fees will be charged at the usual subscription rate as detailed in the prospectus for the number of days books are retained beyond the expiry date.

SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS

Salary Deductions

Since the August issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, the following notifications have been received with regard to salary deductions:
Terminations.—Llanelly B., U.D.C.'s of Hebden Bridge and Seaham Harbour; R.D.C.'s of Cannock and Magor.
Modifications.—Brecknockshire C.C., and Mountain Ash U.D.C.

Superannuation

Chiefly as a result of the questionnaire which, as reported in the August issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, was sent to all local authorities, it has been ascertained that the following have adopted schemes as from the dates mentioned:
Boroughs.—Bridgwater, 1/10/1934; Crewe, 1/10/1934; Dorchester, 1/7/1934; Saffron Walden, 1/10/1934.
Urban Districts.—Adlington, 1/1/1934; Aldridge, 1/7/1928; Audenshaw, 1/1/1934; Chingford, 1/10/1934; Kirkham, 1/4/1934; Little Lever, 1/4/1934; Maryport, 1/7/1934; Orrell, 1/1/1934; Standish-with-Langtree, 1/1/1934; Tyldesley, 1/4/1934; West Mersea, 1/1/1934; Withnell, 1/4/1934; Witney, 1/10/1934.
Rural Districts.—Caistor, 1/4/1935.
The New Wortley Burial Board has been admitted to the West Riding (Local Authorities) Superannuation scheme as from January 1, 1934, and, subject to the confirmation of the necessary resolutions, the River Trent Catchment Board, will also be admitted as from April 1, 1934. The inclusion of the two authorities will bring the total number of authorities whose employees are covered by the scheme to 80.
The Whitby U.D.C. has agreed again to consider the adoption of the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, and has decided to obtain a further actuarial report in connection therewith.

Salaries

The Divisional Secretary has interviewed the Finance Committee of the Normanton U.D.C., and made application for the adoption of the West Riding Provincial Council's Scale of Salaries. The Committee has agreed to consider the matter more fully at its next meeting.
As the result of prolonged negotiations between the Liverpool Corporation and the Association, the annual leave of Health Visitors, which was reduced from three weeks to two weeks in 1931, has now been restored to a period of three weeks.
Recent negotiations between the Cheshire County Officers' Branch and the Cheshire County Council on the question of office hours and holidays have resulted in the following concessions being made:— Official Office hours on Saturdays have been fixed from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. (instead of 1 p.m.), and in addition, the head of each department has been authorised to arrange, by means of a rota of absence, that each member of the staff receives one Saturday morning leave of absence in each four. All juniors who are at present entitled to less than 14 days' annual leave, shall have such leave extended to 14 days.

COST OF LIVING

Below, we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months: March, 40; April, 39; May, 37; June, 38; July, 41; August 42; the percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follows:

	June	July	Aug.
Food	17	22	23
Rent	56	56	56
Clothing ..	90	90	90
Fuel and light ..	70	70	70
Other items ..	75	75	75

Local Government Service

Editorial and Advertisement Offices, 3 and 4 Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Telephone: Holborn 2288-2289.

Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration.

Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.

Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

THE CENTENARY YEAR

NEXT YEAR we celebrate the centenary of local government as we know it to-day, and it is fitting that this event should be properly celebrated, for the story of local government is a story which few romances could excel. The growth of the modern system of municipal government is the index of the growth of population, of the manner in which we have changed our habits and tastes; of the movement of large numbers of our people from the rural to the industrial areas in consequence of the development of commerce. It provides the only means of effectively combating disease, and the story of its expansion is the story of the rising standard of life which the past century has witnessed in this country.

The need for housing, the development of health services, the education of the child and of the adult, relief of distress, care of the old and the poor, the provision of adequate means of travel, the right use of leisure, the co-ordination of all the fundamental needs of life—these are the requirements which local government is called upon to supply. And it is the measure of our success in administration, equally with the members of the councils, which determines whether or not these functions are fully meeting the demands which are made upon them.

Working for an Ideal

It is for us to see that the laws passed by the central legislature are wisely and humanely administered and, unless we do that conscientiously all the time, local government might just as well be abolished; in fact, it would be better so, for it is easier to have no system at all than a system badly managed. This one fact we must have in mind, and to the full attainment of this ideal we must devote all our energies. This is the main justification for the inauguration of the N.A.L.G.O. summer schools, for the Association's examination system, its scholarship scheme, and its loans for educational facilities.

The Association is always alive to the fact that a local government officer must have a good knowledge of his subject and of the place of local government in our social organisation, and, if he is to do his work efficiently, he must be protected from the vagaries of the industrial pendulum if he is to administer to the community those services which have been forced upon local government by Parliament. That is why the Association has always pressed for adequate salaries, for reasonable conditions of service and for superannuation.

The Future

The past one hundred years have seen the unparalleled growth of the municipal service. But it is not enough to look backwards; we must look to the future, for the time has arrived when local government is about to be placed upon a scientific basis. Public legislation affecting local government during the past five or six years is a clear manifestation of this fact. The Minister of Health's statement two years ago that the time for tidying up had arrived lends colour to it, and the Local Government Act, 1933, to be followed by a consolidating Public Health Bill, confirms it.

In placing the present system on a scientific basis, can we learn anything from continental experience? Not even the most extreme patriot would say that Europe has nothing to offer this country in the way of achievement so far as the development of social services is concerned, and we know, from our own particular study of professional or technical problems in our day-to-day work, that many schemes have been launched abroad which must interest us if we can be given the chance to see them.

The Centenary Cruise

The Association will provide this opportunity next year. It is within the knowledge of members that a centenary cruise is being organised as part of our celebration programme. Arrangements are being made with the authorities of the ports of call for parties to be conducted through their towns and for visits of inspection of some special aspect of local social organisation to be made. Here is one of the directions in which the Council will rely upon the assistance of branches. The cruise has been primarily organised with the idea of providing a first-class holiday, and those special facilities for seeing how local government is carried out in other countries are incidental to the main idea and will be provided in the stride of the holiday.

What we want the branches to do is to make up a party of members and to canvass members of their local authorities to join in. This cruise must be a success and, unless the wholehearted co-operation of branches is secured, success cannot be achieved. No district must be unrepresented.

The period of the cruise will be 19 days commencing on the 3rd August, 1935, and the rates will vary from nineteen guineas to thirty-eight guineas, according to the position of the cabin and the sleeping accommodation required; apart from that, there will be no distinction. Arrangements can be made for parties to be seated together at meal times, although they may choose different-priced berths according to their requirements. Calls will be made at Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsingfors, Leningrad, Riga, Zoppot, Holtenan, Brünsbrittel, and Hamburg, and arrangements will be made for visiting the chief features of local administration at each place of call. It is hoped that official receptions and hospitality will be extended. It is certain that both relaxation and instruction will be achieved.

SUPERANNUATION

THE letter which appears in this issue signed by Mr. Bishop and Mr. Jenner gives us an opportunity of restating what is happening in connection with the proposed compulsory Superannuation Bill.

Whilst the National Executive Council have not lost sight of the decision given by the Conference at Scarborough last Whitsuntide, it must be acknowledged that there are a few amendments to the 1922 Act which are almost as important as the question of making Superannuation compulsory on the few Authorities who have not yet adopted the Act.

The amendment contained in the second part of Sir Henry Jackson's Bill, which was introduced last Session, would not in any way be a handicap to the acceptance of part I, which dealt solely with the application of the Superannuation provisions to all local authorities.

One of the few clauses in part II, and which will serve as an illustration, proposes to extend the application of the transfer value to and from local authorities with local Superannuation Acts in operation.

Another clause deals with Temporary Officers, and it is designed to prevent local authorities from evading the 1922 Act by keeping Officers for a number of years on the " unestablished " staff.

The National Executive Council have not attempted to put forward anything which would make it more difficult to secure superannuation for those of its members who have not so far been brought under the 1922 Act.

At the moment, the Bill is the subject of consideration by the Local Authorities' Associations and the Ministry of Health, and the National Executive Council is not without hope that an agreed measure will be available in time for introduction as a Private Member's Bill next session.

CAMBRIDGE SUMMER SCHOOL

DISCUSSIONS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROBLEMS

IN last month's issue we gave the first part of the report of the proceedings at the Summer School at Cambridge. The report is concluded below.

The duties of the Public Assistance Officer were explained by MR. E. RIDLEY, Director of Public Assistance for Middlesex, who intimated that he would deal only with that form of charity given under the Poor Law Act. He mentioned, at the outset, that the Poor Law Act went back to 1601, and it was a curious fact that despite the vicissitudes and changes of the 333 years following, the duties of the assisting officer were exactly the same as they were then. That was one of the greatest tributes to the wisdom, foresight, and knowledge of human nature, of one of our greatest Queens.

National Social Services

After dealing with the various social services of mainly local application, the speaker turned his attention to the national services—Unemployment and National Health Insurance. He pointed out the relation between Public Assistance and these took two forms. Employment exchanges co-operated in telling of the benefits given to unemployed, and the Public Assistance co-operated to the extent that where the benefit was not sufficient they supplemented it. In Middlesex, out of every 100 men they assisted, 35 were in receipt of unemployment insurance benefit, and he did not think they were being too generous in helping them further.

The other State social service was National Health Insurance, and there again supplementary assistance was given to sick people solely reliant on Health Insurance benefits. Approved societies co-operated also in that direction.

Turning to what he described as their most troublesome problem—outdoor relief—Mr. Ridley outlined the several expedients adopted to try to secure uniformity of treatment. "We must be very alert that in our work we should do nothing, and encourage nothing, likely to cause a feeling of injustice among our citizens," he declared. "It is one of our most vital problems at present, to secure uniformity of relief."

Looking towards the future, he said he thought they were not far away from the time when they would see removed from the purview of Poor Law the treatment of all tuberculous persons and mental defectives, and the assistance of able-bodied unemployed. That would take a slice off the existing Poor Law administration, and he thought it would grow.

MR. E. RIDLEY,
Director of Public Assistance for Middlesex

The Municipal Engineer

The variety of duty and the interesting range of work with which the municipal engineer is concerned was evident from the lecture given by MR. E. J. STEAD, Surveyor to the Somerset County Council. He advocated that the aspirant to the post, who usually served articles with an established engineer, should obtain the recognised diploma as a step in qualifying for promotion as opportunity offered.

The lecturer proceeded to deal with the relationships between the municipal engineer and the heads of other departments, and outlined the scope and nature of his duties in districts of varying size and importance. He pointed out that the Local Government Act of 1929 and the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932, had meant the introduction of town planning assistants to the headquarters staff of county engineers. "The municipal engineer," said Mr. Stead, "does not permit himself to criticise the legislation by which he works, but it is probable that he feels in his heart that, given the opportunity, he could have improved greatly upon the Acts he is compelled to work under. There is a large element of compromise about most local government legislation, and this fact militates against the attainment of the best results. Water supply would not be allowed to remain in the somewhat haphazard state that it is to-day, but water available in the area of a watershed would be controlled by a joint board for the benefit and advantage of the inhabitants in general. Sewage disposal would also be dealt with on a much wider basis, overlapping in regard to roads—permitted by the 1929 Act—would be abolished, and the town and country planning scheme would be both simplified and produced in a shorter space of time."

The Water Supply Problem

ALDERMAN A. R. ATKEY, chairman of the Water Committee of Nottingham Corporation, had some pointed comments to make on the drought and its solution in the course of an authoritative address on "The Problem of the Water Supply." Mr. Slater presided at this lecture.

In modern times, said Mr. Atkey, the two main sources of water supply were from wells and gravitation schemes, in which a great deal of capital had been sunk. The problem had increased in difficulty with the complexity of civilisation. He had heard it suggested that the demand would go on until it was doubled to about fifty or seventy gallons per head per day.

"Now let me come to the present situation and what is termed the drought," went on the speaker. "Well, the drought is only a comparative description. From a waterworks point of view, we always have droughts. The water engineer's job is to calculate what water on the average falls and how long he had to bridge the gap between the periods when it doesn't fall. Up till now he has solved the problem very satisfactorily. Now, for the first time in my life, the problem of water is in the news—well in the news. I am very glad. We have suffered too long from neglect of public attention. Why? Because, like the Navy in the war, the water supply in peace time has been the silent service of public life."

After showing how the writers of popular articles on the subject completely missed the real point, the lecturer emphasised that the local authorities of the country were already endowed with the responsibility of supplying water in their areas. Ninety per cent. of the population were enjoying permanent and satisfactory supplies, yet for the sake of the 10 per cent. it was suggested that we should revert back to central control. One writer had deplored that 6,000,000 people were dependent on local wells of water, and proposed that the government should embark on a scheme at the expense of the rest of the population, who had already done the job for themselves out of their own resources. He (the speaker) could not imagine that our people would stand for any such nonsensical plan. He also took the opportunity of refuting the charge that nationally the water supply service was in a chaotic state. The various authorities were only too anxious to co-operate to ensure that so vital a national service was available where demanded.

Mr. Atkey added that it was a sad reflection that the water supply was so shamefully and shockingly wasted. In some cases it was definitely ascertained that the wastage was equal to 50 per cent. of the supply, and no effort could be too great to educate the public to a real appreciation of water at its proper value. The increasing normal demand, coupled with the possibility that further dry weather would involve heavy capital expenditure, made it still more important that all wastage should be avoided.

MR. EMRYS EVANS,
Town Clerk of Wallasey, who discussed, at the Summer School, the duties of a Town Clerk, reported in last month's issue

The Elected Representative

The coming of the time when councillors would be paid was foreshadowed by COUNCILLOR MRS. RACKHAM, of Cambridge, when she spoke on "The Contribution of the Elected Representative."

Mrs. Rackham first compared the function of the permanent official with that of the elected representative. The councillors had to decide the policy and the officials had to carry it out. She went on to examine how the committee system worked, and its advantages and disadvantages.

Speaking of the local government system, she said that what was wrong with it was that such a small proportion of the electorate voted at the poll. There was the difficulty of getting people to take an interest in local politics. Candidates owed a great deal to the local Press for such interest as was taken. She suggested that it paid to advertise just as much in local affairs as in business. Local authorities did not advertise enough. Meetings might be addressed on the work of local government. Personally, she would like to see an annual report on the council's work, and a summary and the balance sheets posted to all ratepayers.

(*Continued on next page*)

SOUTH-EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE

The quarterly meeting of the South-Eastern District Committee was held in July at 24 Abingdon Street, London, when the Chairman, Mr. A. Webb (N.E.C.), of Brighton, presided over an attendance which appeared to be slightly affected by the absence of members on holiday.

It was reported that the first place in the Essay competition had been awarded to Mr. Claud Gordon, of Eastbourne, and the second place to Mr. W. T. Jarvis, of Leatherhead. The Committee expressed its warm appreciation to Mr. Kent Wright, Town Clerk of Stoke Newington, for his services as adjudicator. It was also reported that the Finance Committee of the Eastbourne Corporation had granted an extra week's leave of absence to Mr. Gordon in order that he might attend the Summer School. It was decided that a letter of thanks should be sent to the Eastbourne Corporation, and congratulations were extended to the winners of the competition.

The Special Sub-Committee appointed to consider the national scale of Salaries and conditions of service for institutional and nursing staffs reported that they had given exhaustive consideration to the draft as submitted by the N.E.C., and had deemed it necessary to suggest a number of alterations thereto. These were adopted by the District Committee.

Mr. Altoun gave his report of the proceedings at the annual conference, and his impressions of the conference generally. Mr. Moss and Mr. Webb gave their reports as members of the N.E.C. and answered a number of questions.

In the absence of the Sports Secretary, Mr. Veness reported that the golf tournament held at Hastings resulted in the cup going to Mr. S. J. Corey, of the Bexhill Branch, who returned a net score of 71; the runner-up was Mr. B. Tindall, of Hastings, who won the cup last year.

Mr. Taylor, Tunbridge Wells, moved that the District Committee congratulate the Scarborough Branch upon the success of their effort for the B. and O. Fund, and also express appreciation of their action in allowing the profits to be allocated to branches.

A new Branch of the Association has been formed at Ripon. Mr. R. D. Irving is the honorary secretary and Mr. H. C. Jackson is the honorary treasurer. There will be a commencing membership of approximately 15.

The members of the West Riding Mental Hospital Branch visited Scarborough and Whitby by motor-coach on June 10, on the occasion of their first social venture. The arrangements were made by a small sub-committee, of which Mr. C. Parkinson acted as secretary.

MORE POWER *for* LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Referring to the representatives on councils, the speaker said that the hours of meeting made it difficult for wage earners, who were four-fifths of the voters, to become members, and consequently an enormous number of persons retired from the business of life were on councils, and the average age consequently was high. She would like to see more younger men and women serving on councils.

MR. E. J. STEAD
County Surveyor of Somerset

She did not think really representative local government would be obtained until councillors were paid. That was coming slowly. The existing system meant to a large extent that a kind of property qualification for councillors was in force.

Dealing with party politics, in local government, MRS. RACKHAM said that it was only when they intervened that sustained interest from one election to another could be obtained. Party politics were involved in municipal as well as local government, and it seemed only right that they should find expression in local elections.

Considering the future, she said that they wished to see more power in the hands of local authorities. They were going ahead in town-planning, municipal banks, printing plants, milk supply and other municipal services, if required. There was also the matter of providing the people with better means of spending their leisure hours. The drive to provide a great deal of what was best in civilisation, a provision which could be made by local authorities, should come from the elected representatives.

Planning Policy Criticised

Vigorous criticism of the town planning schemes in the country was made by MR. T. S. SIMEY, Lecturer in Public Administration at Liverpool, in concluding addresses to the School on Friday, on the Government's part in shaping local policy.

In the course of his remarks he deprecated the narrowness of local policy generally, and declared that one of the big things central government should do was to stir up local bodies now and again on the major issues. Both local and central governments, however, were concerned too much with petty details; and on the bigger things had a series of failures.

Speaking of town planning, the lecturer said: "The houses we are putting up now give me a pain every time I see them. Outside every town you have this awful ribbon of development, a long string of beastly little houses. Whenever foreigners come to England and see the mess we are making I blush with shame."

On Thursday afternoon a special lecture was delivered by DR. DELISLE BURNS on the problem of leisure and local authorities.

The winners of the 1934 essay competition were Mr. Fred Cull, P.A.S.I., City Assessor's Department, Glasgow, and Mr. William J. Malley, D.P.A., of the Education Department, Liverpool. The successful essayists, in short addresses, presented papers to the students in the presence of Sir Arthur Robinson, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Health, who judged the competition. He presented the prizes under the Association's scholarship scheme. The subject in Mr. Cull's class of competition was "Local Government Enterprise—a Plea for Greater Latitude." Mr. Malley dealt with the application of joint regional organisations for purposes which do not readily conform to ordinary administrative boundaries.

The glorious weather which prevailed throughout the whole period of the school made out-door recreation especially delightful, and the Cam was well patronised by river parties, both for boating and bathing.

On the Friday evening, when a successful social was held at the Dorothy Café, opportunity was taken to present the Education Secretary, Mr. H. Slater, with a silver cigarette case in appreciation of his excellent organisation work. Mr. and Mrs. J. Chaston returned to Cambridge to be present at the social, and the school broke up on Saturday morning.

"AS A RESULT OF THAT VALUATION REPORT THE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF 6,250,000 INSURED PERSONS WERE REDUCED AND THE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF NO LESS THAN 4,250,000 INSURED PERSONS CEASED ALTOGETHER."

MINISTER OF HEALTH
HOUSE OF COMMONS 10th NOV. 1933.

NOT A SINGLE APPLICANT TO NALGO APPROVED SOCIETY WAS REFUSED OR RECEIVED REDUCED ADDITIONAL BENEFIT THROUGH LACK OF FUNDS DURING THE PAST YEAR.

DENTAL CONVALESCENT HOMES SURGICAL APPLIANCES WANT AND DISTRESS
OPTICAL HOSPITALS CONVALESCENCE IN THE SOCIETY'S OWN CONVALESCENT HOME "NALGO HOUSE," MATLOCK

APPLICATION FORM AND PARTICULARS OBTAINABLE FROM YOUR BRANCH LOCAL CORRESPONDENT OR—THE SECRETARY,

NALGO APPROVED SOCIETY 24 ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

AT RANDOM: COMMENTARY ON CURRENT EVENTS

By "HYPERION"

Heat Wave

I AM thankful that owing to the "At Random" column being held over in the June issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, I have a few paragraphs in hand. Otherwise, in the lassitude produced by the heat wave, I should probably be too lazy for composition or for the selection of those excerpts and snippets and whatnots with which I try to interest and amuse my constantly growing and ever more appreciative band of readers (Stifle those guffaws over there, *if* you please !). This heat makes me feel *that* limp, luv ! (as they say in Yorkshire).

* * *

Robert Lynd says that there is a taint about money earned by honest work ! "By the time one has earned enough of it, one has got into such a habit of work that one doesn't know how to idle."

This problem of leisure is one we have all got to face. What are *you* going to do with yourself when you attain that state of alleged bliss when you receive so many sixtieths of the average amount of your salary or wages for the five years which immediately precede the date on which you cease to hold your office or employment? (That's a sentence, that was !)

I have little real leisure in these days; in fact, the older I get, the less leisure I seem to have, but at least I have not lost the capacity of planning what I would do with my leisure if I had any ! What would I be doing? Say, listen !

I'd be coolly drifting down a river in a punt, reclining on pale green cushions with green trees overhead, and a girl in a green and white frock gracefully plying the punt pole. A portable (yet electrically driven) gramophone in a dark green leather case would be playing Beethoven's 7th Symphony or possibly the Sonata in F sharp major, or even some wistfully glucose piece of César Franck—

"Annihilating all that's made
To a green thought in a green shade."

In a glass at my side, there would be—no, *not* Créme de Menthe, even at the cost of spoiling that elegant colour scheme !—iced lager, I think.

Isn't it all too Beverley Nichols?

* * *

I see, by the way, that Beverley Nichols has been rather annoyed recently by a parody of his "Down the Garden Path" written by one Nicholas Bevel. He says "Parody to me is a sort of parasite which thrives on vigorous and healthy blood." But about 70,000 copies of "Down the Garden Path" are reputed to have been sold; so he should worry about a few parodists, however stinging !

* * *

A girl I know, read "Down the Garden Path" some time ago, since when, she says, she has hardly dared to look a plant in the face.

* * *

I will attack the problem of leisure in more serious vein some time. It is too hot to-day.

Lunatic Limerick

In the African jungle an anth
Ropologist was chewed by a panth
Er. But the big cat
Said, "Now I am that
Ithfied. I have tathted romanth."
(This panther lisped).

—*Razzle.*

* * *

If We Had Only Known !

There are even among INDEPENDENT readers those who have continued to think that the erection of a score or a thousand council houses did, in fact, relieve the housing congestion. Our special number has done a great deal to remove this misapprehension and to help still more of our readers to comprehend the deep difficult truth, that *in social movements the best way to get things done is generally to do nothing.*—The *Independent*.

[The italics are mine. Comment seems to be unnecessary !]

* * *

Time to Spare

Whether the cases of unemployed men and women who have been describing their way of life in the "Time to Spare" series of the B.B.C. are typical or not, there is no doubt, I think, that they have served a very salutary purpose in bringing home to many listeners, the actual conditions under which the unemployed are living to-day and the tremendous struggle which they are enduring.

It is impossible not to admire the courageous, and often philosophic, spirit in which many of them are facing their misfortune. This is a typical extract from a talk by Mr. W. O'Neil, an unemployed metal turner of Lincoln :

"When I first fell out of work, through the firm shutting down, my first feeling was that I, at least, wouldn't be out of a job long. I used to think that when another man lost his job there must be something wrong with him. I thought I had qualities which would save me from prolonged unemployment. Unfortunately, I was soon disillusioned. It is often luck rather than ability that counts. One sees better men than oneself out of work."

And yet it is futile to imagine that the distress to-day is more severe than it has been in the past. We are often nowadays prone to think of the Victorian era as one of uninterrupted industrial prosperity. Take this extract from Mrs. Gaskell's novel "Mary Barton" and consider if the conditions of our unemployed to-day are as bad as that of the unemployed ninety years ago. I am not attempting to defend the present conditions, but only to emphasize the fact that the modern social conscience, however embryonic, would not tolerate conditions such as obtained about 1840 :

"For three years past trade had been getting worse and worse, and the price of provisions higher and higher. This disparity between the amount of the earnings of the working classes and the price of their food, occasioned, in more cases than would well be imagined, disease and death. Whole families went through a gradual starvation. They only wanted a Dante to record their sufferings. And yet even his words would fall short of the awful truth; they could only present an outline of the tremendous facts of the destitution that surrounded thousands upon thousands in the terrible years 1839, 1840, and 1841. Even philanthropists who had studied the subject, were forced to own themselves perplexed in their endeavour to ascertain the real causes of the misery; the whole matter was of so complicated a nature, that it became next to impossible to understand it thoroughly. . . . And when I hear, as I have heard of the sufferings and privations of the poor, of provision shops where ha'porths of tea, sugar, butter and even flour were sold to accommodate the indigent—parents sitting in their clothes by the fireside during the whole night for seven weeks together, in order that their only bed and bedding might be reserved for the use of their large family—of others sleeping upon the cold hearthstone for weeks in succession, without adequate means of providing themselves with food or fuel (and this in the depth of winter)—of others being compelled to fast for days together, uncheered by any hope of better fortune, living, moreover, or rather starving in a crowded garret, or damp cellar, and gradually sinking under the pressure of want and despair into a premature grave; and when this has been confirmed by the evidence of their careworn looks, their excited feelings, and their desolate homes—can I wonder that many of them, in such times of misery, and destitution, spoke and acted with ferocious precipitation ? "

* * *

Dreams of the Future

I am glad to see that Messrs. Faber and Faber have published a cheap edition of Mr. J. W. Dunne's famous book "An Experiment with Time."

Mr. J. B. Priestley has described this book as "one of the most fascinating, the most curious, and perhaps the most important books of this age."

The experiment consisted of a series of close observations of dreams—principally of the author's, and these observations appeared to prove conclusively that the dreamer was often aware of events which occurred in his working life *after* he had dreamed about them.

Mr. Dunne kept a "Dream Diary" over a considerable period of years and the results which he has recorded, all showing how he has dreamed of future happenings, are of the utmost interest. Here is a typical example :—

"The dream occurred in the autumn of 1913. The scene I saw was a high railway embankment. I knew in that dream—knew without questioning, as anyone acquainted with the locality would have known—that the place was just north of the Firth of Forth Bridge, in Scotland. The terrain below the embankment was open grassland, with people walking in small groups thereon. The scene came and went several times, but the last time, I saw that a train going north, had just fallen over the embankment. I saw several carriages lying towards the bottom of the slope, and I saw large blocks of stone rolling and sliding down. Realizing that this was probably one of those odd dreams of mine, I tried to ascertain if I could 'get' the date of the real occurrence. All I could gather was that this date was somewhere in the following spring. My own recollection is that I pitched finally upon the middle of April, but my sister thinks I mentioned March, when I told her the dream next morning. We agreed, jokingly, that we must warn our friends against travelling north in Scotland at any time in the succeeding spring. On April the 14th of that spring, the 'Flying Scotsman,' one of the most famous mail trains of the period, jumped the parapet near Burntisland Station, about fifteen miles north of the Forth Bridge, and fell on to the golf links twenty feet below."

Mr. Dunne also dreamed about the volcano disaster in Martinique in 1902, some time before it occurred.

The explanation put forward by the author, involves a new conception of the nature of time. Time, upon this theory, is not just a fourth dimension added to the three dimensions of space. It is an infinite series of dimensions, involving the existence of an infinite series of observers—a series which stretches out, so to speak, behind each man's workaday self. To this theory, the author gives the name of "serialism" and he works it out with simple diagrams and a considerable clarity of style.

Some of the latter chapters in the book, would appeal particularly to those who have a strong mathematical bent, but the whole book is one of the most interesting and original works of modern times.

"Who's Who in Local Government," To be published by the "Municipal Journal" will be a worthy souvenir of 1935 when Local Government in its modern form celebrates its centenary.

MR. H. S. NEWTON,
Chief Education Officer, Sheffield, and Chairman of Nalgo B. and O. Fund Management Committee, on whom, as reported in our last issue, Sheffield University have conferred the Honorary Degree of Master of Arts.

A CRUISE AROUND THE WORLD

In January next the *Empress of Britain*, the world's wonder ship—the largest vessel ever to encircle the globe—will leave Monaco on a grand cruise round the world. Perfect in every detail, decorated by some of the world's most famous artists, equipped with every comfort and refinement that human wit can devise, the *Empress of Britain* is indeed an ideal vessel for such a voyage to lands of enchantment in sunny climes—including many places off the beaten track. The carefully planned itinerary provides for visits to the various countries at the best time of year for each. The wonders of the *Empress of Britain* and the places of historic interest and scenic beauty to be encountered on the cruise are described in a beautifully illustrated brochure, a copy of which may be obtained on application to the Cruise Department, Canadian Pacific, 62 Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL

Mr. R. Deas, of the City Chamberlain's Department, Edinburgh, has been awarded the External Academic Diploma in Public Administration of the University of London. Mr. Deas, who has for many years been an active member of the Association in Edinburgh, is convener of the Education Sub-Committee of the Edinburgh Branch.

* * *

Mr. Walter Miller, Superintendent of Parks, Gourock, has been appointed Superintendent of Parks, Ipswich.

* * *

Mr. M. O. McAuliffe, a member of the National Executive Council of N.A.L.G.O., has been appointed Chief Education Officer of Bristol as from November 1 next, in the place of the Director of Education who has resigned. Mr. McAuliffe's salary will be £1,000 per annum, rising to a maximum of £1,250 by annual increments of £50.

* * *

A presentation was made at Islington Town Hall to Mr. R. H. Jerman, M.C., M.A., on the eve of his departure from Islington to take up the post of Town Clerk and Solicitor of Wandsworth. Mr. Jerman was presented with an illuminated copy (suitably framed) of the resolution of appreciation of his valuable services rendered as Town Clerk of Islington (which was unanimously passed at a special meeting of the Borough Council). The resolution, which was under the Seal of the Council, was signed by the Mayor (Alderman Bertie Holden, J.P.), Alderman H. S. Jordan, Alderman W. E. Manchester, J.P., Councillor H. J. Griffiths, Councillor G. A. W. Alexander, and Mr. F. W. Small (Assistant Town Clerk). The presentation, which was made by the Mayor, also consisted of a set of handsome walnut bookshelves and a cut-glass vase. The bookcase bore the inscription: "Presented to R. H. Jerman, M.C., M.A., by a few friends—members of the Islington Borough Council. June, 1934."

* * *

We regret to record the death of Mr. R. F. Betts, B.Sc., Secretary for Education, Norwich. He died suddenly at his home at Norwich on the morning of August 4 four hours before he was to have started on a Norwegian cruise. Mr. Betts, who was 58 years of age, had filled the office of president of the Norwich Branch, 1927–28, with marked ability.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William Rooke Hicks, Borough Engineer and Surveyor of Ealing, which occurred suddenly on July 27. Mr. Hicks was educated at the Haberdashers School and the City of London College. He was in the service of the Tottenham and Twickenham Councils as Assistant Surveyor, and went to Ealing in 1900 as Chief Assistant to the late Mr. Charles Jones, whom he succeeded in 1913. He was a member of the Council of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers, chairman of its South Midland District, fellow of the Surveyors' Institution and the Royal Sanitary Institute; a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and president of the Middlesex Surveyors' Association. He was also on the committee of the British Standards Institution, and a representative of the Ealing Town Council on the National Safety First Association. Mr. Hicks held high rank in Freemasonry, and was a keen sportsman. He was a past president of the Ealing Branch of N.A.L.G.O.

* * *

Mr. W. F. Dixon, accountancy assistant in the Treasurer's Department of the Conway Corporation, has received an appointment with the High Wycombe Corporation as housing and general assistant.

* * *

Mr. A. H. J. Bown, A.C.I.S., A.M.Inst.T., a member of the Bristol Branch of N.A.L.G.O., who has been engaged for some years past as a travelling assistant in the Commercial Department of the Port of Bristol Authority, has secured an appointment as commercial representative at the Port of Sunderland.

* * *

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Walter A. Briscoe, City Librarian of Nottingham, which occurred, after a long illness, on June 29. Mr. Briscoe, who was the only son of Mr. John Potter Briscoe (City Librarian, 1868–1916), entered the service of the Nottingham Public Libraries in 1893, and was a member of N.A.L.G.O. since its inception. He was Deputy City Librarian for some years, and on the retirement of Mr. Potter Briscoe in 1916, succeeded him as City Librarian. Five new branch libraries were built during his term of office, while the opening of the extension in 1932 doubled the resources of the Central Library. He was elected a Fellow of the Library Association in 1912, was a member of the Council for many years up to his death, and in February, 1934, was appointed chairman of the Executive Committee. Mr. Briscoe was the author of a number of professional and other books.

The inaugural luncheon of the Public Services Scholastic Alliance at the Hotel Great Central, London.

FUTURE OF CIVIC PLANNING

By Dr. WILLIAM A. ROBSON

Reader in Administrative Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science

THE state of mind which exists in Great Britain in regard to the main lines on which development and reconstruction should take place is somewhat confused. The nation has definitely set its face against the attitude which permitted the Victorian age, in the heyday of its prosperity, to build the hotbeds of disease and misery we call the slums; to suffocate the industrial centres with monotonous rows of hideous and insanitary dwellings; to tolerate the growth of cities devoid of grace or delight or convenience. But there is no clear view as to the kind of environment we should aim at creating. Nor, indeed, is it agreed that we should aim at the deliberate creation of any particular kind of environment whatever.

The consequence of this is that civic planning, the most promising and creative movement of our time, has been retarded in expression and stunted in growth. In place of the magnificent symphony it might have given us we have had only a few five-finger exercises.

A Paradoxical Fact

This explains the paradoxical fact that, although our intentions are ever so much better and our sensibilities far more acute than were those of the Victorian age, our deeds have been even more destructive of the things we value than were theirs. The Victorian era, after all, despoiled only the towns, while we have desecrated the countryside in addition to inflicting considerable damage on the cities. Speedtracks on the Brighton Downs, quarries in the Malvern Hills, bungaloid growths on the Cornish coast, building exploits on the Seven Sisters, tea-shanties overlooking the Needles on the Isle of Wight: vandalism or threats of this kind have been our daily fare during the past fifteen years.

Those same post-war years have witnessed economic and social changes of a far-reaching character. There has been a decline in the older basic industries of coal, cotton, iron and steel, shipping and ship-building, accompanied by the growth of newer industries such as artificial silk, motor cars, electrical equipment, radio apparatus and so forth. Second, there has been a shifting of population from the North and from South Wales to the South. This movement has occurred not only in the newer trades, but also in the older occupations, for the port of Southampton has grown at the expense of Liverpool and extensive coal mines are now operating on the Kentish coast. Third, there has been an unprecedented expansion in the great public services such as electricity supply, highways, road transport and housing. It is clear that we are in the midst of a second Industrial Revolution resulting, like the first one, from the progress of science.

"Design For Living"

If the community were to realise fully the immense possibilities of social enrichment through the use of civic planning which now lie within our control, these great economic changes would be directed with reference to a "Design for Living" (to borrow a playwright's suggestive phrase). By that means the country could be made far more attractive, convenient and healthy than it now is. It is impossible to travel out of London along the Great West Road or Edgware Road without seeing that it would have been better for the owners, for the workers and for the public if the factories which sprawl along the highway had been situated in a carefully selected industrial zone planned in relation to housing, transport, recreation, education and public health services. It is impossible to contemplate the transformation of Oxford into a great motor car manufacturing centre without seeing that this is one of the most senseless and injurious developments, from a civic point of view, which could possibly have taken place in that particular city.

DR. W. A. ROBSON

During the decade between 1921 and 1931 the Greater London Region underwent a process of enlargement which can only be described as dropsical. That part of the Region which is situated between the boundary of the London County Council and the boundary of the London Traffic Advisory Committee had to provide for no less than 1,006,941 fresh inhabitants during this period. This multitude, to use the words of the Regional Planning Committee, "have been scattered throughout the Region." At the same time three of our most important industrial areas—Lancashire, South Wales and the Tyneside—have remained in a desperate plight owing to the decline in the industries on which they formerly depended. They are superbly equipped in every way to receive new industrial developments, but there has been no attempt to induce the rising industries to locate their factories in these hard-pressed areas.

The Expression of Order

Effective planning, Sir Raymond Unwin has remarked, is the expression of order. Just as the plan of a house should both provide for, and promote, the fullest family life, so the plan of a town or a county or a region should be designed to express and to facilitate the fullest life of the community. Civic design is neither a luxury which we cannot afford in hard times nor a social service which is "uneconomic." A well-thought-out plan is a definite economic benefit to everyone whom it affects: to the owners of land and premises whose property it enhances and protects; to the parents and children whose health and comfort it promotes; to the workers whose convenience and accommodation it studies; to the manufacturer and distributor, whose problems of transportation and labour supply it helps to solve. It is, moreover, an inexpensive service, apart from the cost of providing open spaces and highways, which is often very heavy.

The instruments through which the movement for civic planning is finding expression in Great Britain are the local authorities. At first it was the councils of county boroughs and country districts which alone had responsibilities in the matter. Since 1929 the county councils have also been given powers. More important than the work of individual local authorities are the comprehensive regional plans which have been prepared, or are in course of preparation, by numerous local authorities acting jointly in co-operation. According to the latest report, there are 114 Regional planning committees comprising no less than 966 separate local authorities, whose areas cover 16 million acres of Great Britain, 31 millions of her population and £223 millions of annual rateable value. Some of them embrace very large areas. For example, the Manchester and District Regional Planning Council contains 96 local authorities, stretching over 1,000 square miles, while the Midland Joint Town Planning Advisory Council comprises 65 local authorities spreading over 1,700 square miles. By no means all of these authorities have taken effective steps to bring planning schemes into existence.

Powers For Planning

The powers which planning authorities have at their disposal to ensure wise development are: (1) the disposition of highways and bridges, (2) the provision of parks, open spaces, recreation grounds and so forth, (3) zoning—that is, the prohibition, limitation, or regulation of building development over specific areas in terms of the character of the buildings, the purposes for which they may be used, and their size, height, design, elevation, density, etc., (4) the protection of amenities and the preservation of places and buildings.

The questions which have to be considered in the formulation of a plan are not merely obvious matters such as transportation facilities and the housing needs of the population. A good plan takes into account the relation between dwelling place and workplace, and between residence and recreational centre. It co-ordinates the children's homes with their schools. It envisages the future development of the area in relation to all the civic institutions and social services which the local authorities provide; the hospitals and sanatoria, the public libraries and museums, the utilities such as gas, water, and electricity, baths and wash-houses, maternity and child welfare centres, tuberculosis clinics, houses, and flats. The great national electricity grid which has recently been completed offers vast possibilities in promoting desirable changes in the location of industry and in discouraging undesirable ones; for whereas it used to be said that industry follows the flag, to-day it may be said more truly that industry follows the transformer station.

It is indisputable that the local authorities in this country have already taken the first steps towards planning the social environment both in town and country. At the same time it is clear that this movement, possibly the most creative of all municipal services, has not realised anything like the achievements of which it is potentially capable. Local authorities and their officers are but the reflections of public opinion in this matter, as in so many others.

Public Support Wanted

No one who has investigated the particulars of the existing schemes in detail can pretend to be satisfied with all, or even most, of what is being done. Here and there a city like Liverpool is giving the lead by making its plan the blueprints of a new and finer city. But timidity and incompetence abound. The valuable work of the Greater London Regional Planning Committee, for instance, was recently brought to a standstill through lack of funds, although the expenses of the committee amount to only a paltry £4,000 a year. To take another example, it has been stated that in 1931 enough land was allocated for housing purposes in town planning schemes to accommodate an additional population of 183,000,000 persons!

(*Continued on page 633, column 1*)

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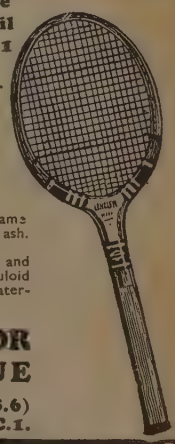

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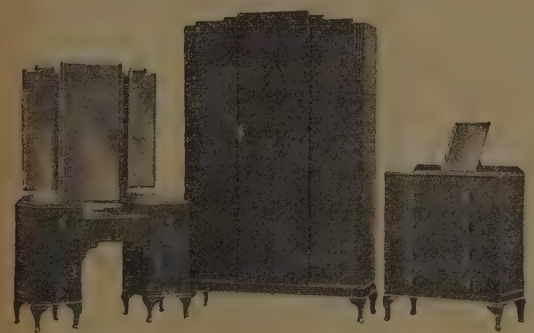

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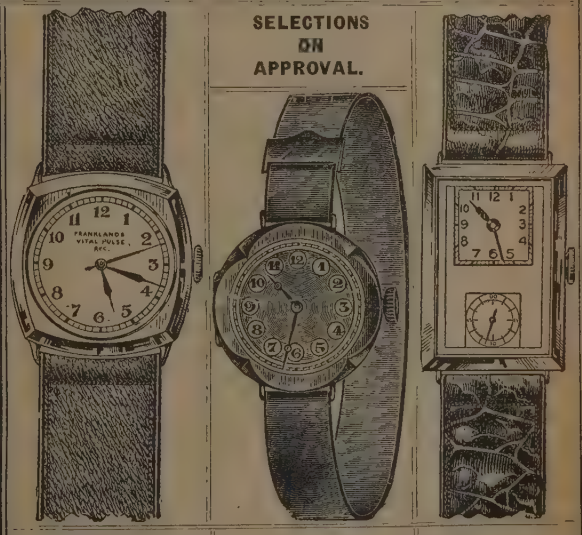

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Mr. R. O. Black, York, to Sanitary Inspector under the Batley Council.

Mr. A. French, Newcastle-on-Tyne, to Assistant Sanitary Inspector under the Bethnal Green Council.

Mr. W. H. Gibson, Sunderland, to Rate Clerk under the Isle of Thanet Council.

Mr. G. Gardiner, Doncaster Branch, to Assistant Accountant under the Sandown-Shanklin U.D.C.

Mr. M. E. Habershon, Rotherham, to Deputy Borough Surveyor under the Walsall Council.

Mr. C. J. Morton, Rotherham, to Assistant Solicitor under the Kent C.C.

Mr. T. G. Spencer, Batley, to Sanitary Inspector under the Brentwood U.D.C.

Miss Scattergood, Rotherham, to Woman Housing Estate Manager under the Bootle Council.

Mr. C. Richards, Bradford, to Assistant Master, Withington Institution, Manchester.

Mr. T. Taylor, Bradford, to Town Planning Assistant under the Leeds City Council.

Mr. C. Wilson, Bradford, to an appointment in the Treasurer's Department under the Redruth U.D.C.

Mr. F. W. Chapman, East Riding Branch, to Librarian under the Chichester Council.

Mr. H. M. Jeffreys, East Riding Branch, to Engineer under the East Ham Council.

Mr. W. F. Sangurne, East Riding Branch, to Probation Officer under the Kingston-on-Thames Council.

Mr. D. C. Barlow, West Bromwich, to Assistant Master, Middlesbrough.

Mr. G. H. Hulson, West Bromwich, to a post in the Public Assistance Institution, Bradford.

Mr. T. Watson, West Bromwich, to a post in the City Mental Hospital, Birmingham.

Mr. O. Cunniffe, Long Eaton, to Cashier, Accountant's Department, Barnet U.D.C.

Mr. N. H. Stockley, Coventry, to Engineering Assistant, Walsall.

Mr. W. H. Spencer, Sutton Coldfield, to a post in the Surveyor's Department, Clacton-on-Sea U.D.C.

Mr. L. E. Shaw, Finance Clerk, Hucknall U.D.C., appointed Collector to the Tamworth R.D.C.

Mr. J. F. Cuitz, Clerk to the Hucknall U.D.C., to Clerk, Huyton with Roby U.D.C.

Mr. E. Leslie Robson, Solicitor, of the firm of Bolsover & Robson, of Stockton on Tees, to be Clerk to the Hucknall U.D.C.

Mr. C. Richards, Bradford, to Asst. Master, Withington Institution, Manchester.

Mr. R. W. Lynn, Bootle, to Director of Libraries and Museums, Birkenhead.

Mr. Leslie Green, Haslingden, to Deputy Borough Treasurer, Stalybridge.

Mr. C. W. Thomas, A.I.M.T.A., A.S.A.A., Dagenham, to Treasurer, Workington.

Mr. H. F. Codling, West Suffolk, to Swinton.

A. Dallimore, Bucks, to Accountancy Assistant, Ramsgate Branch.

I. C. Jenkins, Cheltenham, to Surveyor, Farnborough U.D.C.

A. H. J. Brown, Bristol, to Commercial Rep. (Port of Sunderland), Sunderland.

H. M. B. Burge, Somerset, to Grade A Clerk, Heston and Isleworth.

G. C. Page, Berks, to Town Planning Assistant, Canterbury.

G. N. Wilkinson, Mid-Surrey, to Junior Engineering Assistant, Chertsey U.D.C.

A. A. C. Hillier, Guildford, to Cemetery Superintendent, Aylesbury Branch.

D. F. Widdas, Isle of Thanet, to Accountancy Assistant, Dover.

Wm. Robinson, Walthamstow, to Sanitary Inspector, Hampstead.

S. E. M. Frankham, Hammersmith, to Committee Clerk, Westminster.

A. V. Newman, Hammersmith, to Scarborough.

H. Spink, Dagenham, to Junior Engineering Assistant, Westminster.

R. J. Drew, Dagenham, to Sanitary Inspector, Ilford.

A DAY IN A CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

AN ACCOUNT OF AN AMERICAN OFFICER'S MULTIFARIOUS DUTIES

By W. P. HUNTER

CITY MANAGER, ROANOKE, VIRGINIA*

IT is not my purpose to give a theoretical discussion of the duties and provinces of the office of city manager, but rather to have you sit in with me in viewing an average day's work in my office.

We shall start the day a few minutes before eight o'clock when I park my car in the rear of the municipal building. I do not reach the office until five or ten minutes later, as I am waylaid by persons in the hallways who are seeking an interview.

Arriving at the office, I find my office force—consisting of a chief clerk, who also acts as assistant purchasing agent, and my secretary—at their desks. I find on my desk copies of purchase orders from the previous day which I make a point to check early each morning.

Discussions with Officers

While engaged in this work, the city clerk—who also is the auditor—comes in to discuss the street repair and other accounts which need to be curtailed in order to keep within the budget, and also to discuss certain phases in the new proposed electrical ordinance.

As the city clerk leaves, I have an opportunity to look over about five more purchase orders when in comes the city engineer to go over plans for widening and improving Franklin Road and to take up the matter of the types of paving to be used in resurfacing work.

Before the city engineer leaves, the building inspector and health officer come to the door saying they have a matter which they would like to discuss with the city engineer and me, as we all have a part to take in the proposed work of tearing down certain old and unsafe buildings and extending a sewer to clear up an unsanitary condition in the city.

Following this conference, I look at the morning's mail and sign a number of requisitions for supplies and materials ranging from a request for a box of paper clips to a car of paving brick.

I now find it is nine o'clock and from the talk in the outer office I know there are a number of people waiting to see me.

First, there are two women representing one of the garden clubs who want the city to set out trees and shrubbery which they have purchased for one of the small parkways in which their club is interested.

Receiving Deputations

Next comes a delegation from the city market requesting certain changes in hours and methods pertaining to the operation of the market. This discussion consumes over half an hour.

Then comes a woman and her husband with a complaint of not receiving sufficient relief from the welfare organisations.

Next in order are an applicant for a position on the police force, a citizen requesting certain street improvements, and a man desiring information as to an available site for the location of a small industry which he wishes to establish within the city limits and as to the zoning regulations affecting such an industry.

It is now eleven o'clock and I have an appointment for a meeting with the Social Service Bureau Board which will last until noon.

It might be well to mention that up to this time I have had from fifteen to twenty telephone conversations with persons who desire to talk directly with me and will not consider giving their wants to the clerk or secretary. During the day I will average about thirty 'phone calls, ordinarily consuming about two minutes a call, on every conceivable subject from a request for the installation of street lights, to complaints between property owners, a matter over which I have no jurisdiction as it is a question for the civil court. Such calls and complaints consume considerable time in explanation.

Returning to the office at noon, I begin my morning dictation, on completion of which I give a few minutes' interview to a newspaper reporter who comes in about this time every day. I also sign about twenty warrants for the Transient and Social Service Bureau.

As I finish this work a representative of a fraternal organisation comes in and requests a permit for a parade and we discuss the time and most feasible route. Then comes a representative from an organisation wanting the free use of the city market auditorium. It takes some time to satisfy him that his organisation is not entitled to this privilege.

The city attorney comes in wanting names and statements of witnesses, maps, and photographs necessary for the preparation of his defence of a damage claim against the city. It is now one o'clock; so I leave for lunch.

Returning at two o'clock, I immediately go out with the city engineer on an inspection trip. First, we go over the widening of Lynchburg Road, and from there to the city quarry to look into trouble they are having with the crusher. Then we pick up the fire chief who wishes to inspect certain fire hazards in the downtown section and also to look into the need for additional fire hydrants in certain areas.

Investigating Complaints

Next we investigate complaints as to water flooding private property, streets needing resurfacing, and several other matters which have been referred to me by the city council and require personal inspection on the ground. Such trips usually take about one and a half hours, as the points to be visited are in widely separated sections of the city.

Back in the office by half-past three, I have a half-hour's meeting with two members of the city council who, with me, have been appointed a committee to go into the question of purchasing land for widening streets.

There are a number of persons waiting to see me. First, a property owner demands that the city repair doors and windows broken during a police raid. I 'phone the superintendent of police to come up to the office so that the matter may be thoroughly investigated while the complainant is present.

Next comes an official from another city to obtain information on certain methods and procedures in handling municipal affairs in Roanoke. He is taken to the heads of certain departments where the information desired can be more readily obtained.

After that I have an interview with the newspaper reporter, sign the day's mail, and approve work orders which are sent to the various departments. I also sign about ten more warrants—I say ten more because I have signed city warrants throughout the day. By this time it is five o'clock.

During the day, the chief clerk in my office has saved much of my time by handling directly many complaints and requests. For instance, he received seventy-five telephone calls ranging from a request to have a dead dog removed, to information desired by a student as to the area of the city and names of its officials.

The chief clerk also received ten persons applying for work, at least six salesmen, and three applicants for a permit to secure a personal privilege licence. He had about fifteen requisitions for supplies and materials, filled out a questionnaire for someone desiring certain information, and left the office twice to obtain signatures on right of ways and property deeds.

Now I have given you an average day in the city manager's office. Of course, it varies. There might have been an opening of bids for the purchase of automobile tyres, fire hose, or other large items for which bids are received. The opening of these bids consumes several hours as each salesman is given a certain amount of time to present his sales talk. Another day, I might have spent the entire afternoon in negotiating with property owners for land desired for street widening or other purposes.

Public Relations

In a city the size of Roanoke, 69,206 inhabitants in 1930, it means that every moment of the day in the city manager's office is occupied in a most interesting manner. Every citizen is a stockholder of the city and as such feels that he can call upon the city manager for anything.

I have always believed it my duty to give as much personal attention to these calls and requests as possible. We are always busy, but not too busy at any time to furnish anyone with the information he may desire about the management of his city. A thorough knowledge of a city's affairs on the part of its citizens will facilitate good government. A city manager must devote considerable time to public relations.

* An address presented in a radio series sponsored by the League of Virginia Municipalities.

ROADS YEAR BOOK

ROADS AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION YEAR BOOK AND DIRECTORY, 1934–35. (The Carriers Publishing Co., Ltd., 68 and 29 Shoe Lane, E.C.4.) 10s. 6d. net.

The Local Government Act, 1933, redistributed the responsibilities for the maintenance and improvement of roads. The new Road Traffic Act has caused a re-alignment of road traffic control which will affect every citizen who uses the highway. These two measures have together caused a complete change in administration and when, added to these, is the general "push" for new trunk roads, by-pass roads, road-widening schemes, it will easily be imagined how necessary it is for the officers of local authorities to have an up-to-the-minute reference book. The "Roads and Road Construction Year Book and Directory" is this book. It is undoubtedly one of those books without which the highway engineer's office would be incomplete.—*D. J. P.*

CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES

At page 595 of the August issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, information was given in regard to the consolidation of civil service salaries as from July 1, 1934. On August 2 last, the Ministry of Health sent a circular (1428) to local authorities, stating that, in view of the Treasury decision, quoted above, local authorities may desire to proceed along similar lines. The Minister of Health should be informed if it is proposed to consolidate salaries. In cases where the local authorities desire to continue payment of basic salary and bonus, the Minister sanctions, in those cases where his sanction is necessary, such payment of bonus as the local authorities may determine, provided that the total remuneration received by the officers shall not exceed the appropriate sums in relation to the approved basic salaries as indicated in the ready reckoner.

THE SCOTTISH HEALTH VISITOR AT WORK

A GUIDE, PHILOSOPHER AND FRIEND : HER VARIED DUTIES DESCRIBED : SPECIALISED RÔLE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

THE office of Health Visitor is of fairly recent origin. In 1902 there were in Glasgow six women inspectors; in Dundee there were two; Paisley, Leith, Aberdeen, and Greenock had one each—total 12. There are now 1,066 Health Visitors employed by local authorities on maternity and child welfare, school health, and tuberculosis duties in Scotland (466 whole-time and 600 part-time).

In a recent paper, Miss J. A. Swanson, Edinburgh, recalled that in the early days the pioneer Health Visitors met many difficulties. They had not the protection of legislation, and much time, perseverance, and work were required before public opinion was aroused to the great need of organised and skilled workers for this branch of Public Health Service. The duties of the first Health Visitors consisted chiefly of the systematic visitation of homes in the poorer districts to instruct women how to make the best of their homes, and to teach them the virtues of cleanliness, thrift, decency, and the necessity of good ventilation in their dwellings, and to give advice to the mothers on the subject of infant hygiene and feeding.

Effect of the 1915 Act

The Notification of Birth (Extension) Act, 1915, gave a great impetus to the work of Health Visitors. This Act gave a legal status to maternity and child-welfare work, which shortly became a Grant-bearing Service, and the Health Visitors who were appointed at this time were generally employed full time in connection with schemes under this Act.

Miss Swanson notes that the duties of a Health Visitor are wide and not easily defined, and the method of her work must, of necessity, be determined by the need of the district. Health visiting may either be (*a*) specialised; (*b*) combined. If specialised, her work may be (1) maternity and child welfare; (2) school medical inspection; (3) tuberculosis Health Visitor. If combined, she may be required to do all or part of these services.

The duties of a Health Visitor under a maternity and child welfare scheme are :— (1) Ante-natal supervision; (2) post-natal supervision; (3) child-welfare visitation (from birth to five years of age); (4) special and routine visiting; (5) during epidemics of measles and whooping cough she may give the larger part of her time to this work; (6) inquiries where extra nourishment is required and requested; (7) inquiries into still-births, maternal deaths, infant deaths, and cases of ophthalmia neonatorum (notifiable); (8) lectures in "mothercraft"; (9) visiting and assisting in medical inspection at toddlers' playgrounds; (10) she may also have to act as Assistant Inspector of Midwives; (11) she should be able to organise and equip such clinics as ante-natal, post-natal, child welfare, violet ray, etc., and also to arrange, regulate, and conduct the work of the clinic under the control of the Medical Officer of Health.

Home Visiting

Miss Swanson emphasises that home visiting is of great importance, and any scheme which lessens this part of the Health Visitor's work is mistaken policy. Home visiting and home teaching must be the first duty of every Health Visitor. The good Health Visitor becomes the guide and friend of the mother.

The Health Visitor receives the notification of the child's birth from the Medical Officer of Health and should visit as soon as possible. The Scottish Department of Health recommend that she should visit weekly for the first month, fortnightly for the next two months, and monthly thereafter for a year. Miss Swanson agrees that this would be of benefit to mother and child, but owing to the largeness of the districts and the varied duties of the Health Visitor in many cases it is not possible.

The Health Visitor makes inquiries into the home circumstances and supervises the giving of food, milk, and dinner tickets in necessitous cases. She may also be asked to visit and report on children boarded out under the Poor Law Acts. It is only lately that the systematic visiting of the child from one to five years has been undertaken by the Health Visitor. The reason for this is because the Health Visitor was primarily appointed to look after the baby, and also because there are not enough Health Visitors to undertake this work. Before the work can reach its full efficiency there must be more women employed full time in all large centres.

The baby and the school child are being looked after, but the ex-baby is often a rather neglected little being. Health Visitors have been impressed with this fact, and yet the mother may need advice as much as before on food, habits, cleanliness, fresh air, and exercise for the healthy growth of the child. There may be difficulty in dealing with the mental defective. The Health Visitor knows all the family history and the mother's capabilities in dealing with the child's condition. It is a difficult problem, but the Health Visitor can be of great assistance to the parents in arranging about the child's future.

Good Work In Day Nurseries

Splendid work is being done in the day nurseries, play centres for the toddler, and nursery schools, and these small institutions become welcome depots for the medical inspection of the pre-school infant. He is being taught healthy habits; nose and teeth drill take place daily; weaknesses are observed and reported; and the children are medically examined, weighed, and measured regularly. Health Visitors who have assisted at those examinations find a great improvement in the children both physically and mentally.

By the attendance of the mothers at the clinics they show their willingness to be helped and guided, but the work of talking individually to the mothers in their homes is of great value and has far-reaching results. It is there that their needs and difficulties are best understood; in fact, no infant welfare work can be successful without the home visiting. The tendency at present is to increase the clinics. The same Health Visitor who visits the homes, Miss Swanson points out, should be at the centres so that she will know and see that the advice given by the doctor is carried out, and the mother will be more willing to take her child to the centre if the Health Visitor can tell her that she will be present, and then there is the advantage that the Health Visitor will be able to give many details of the home which will be valuable to the doctor in dealing with the mother and child.

Lectures on "mothercraft" may be given by the Health Visitor at the centre, and she may also have to give lectures to the senior pupils at schools. The Health Visitor may be required to act as Assistant Inspector of Midwives and these duties include the inspection of midwives' records and bags; preliminary inquiries into charges of malpractice; neglect or misconduct; suspension of midwives from practice, in order to prevent spread of infection; the maintaining of a list of the names and addresses of midwives who have notified their intention to practice in the area, etc.

Tuberculosis Service

When the Health Visitor is doing tuberculosis work alone it involves much that is related to nursing. She visits all cases notified; gets details regarding the duration and history of the illness; the possible source of infection; place of residence during the illness; occupation during recent years; personal habits; names and addresses of contacts; and a general family history. She supervises the arrangements made for the patient's care and comfort in the home, and gives instructions as to the precautionary measures required as aids to prevention of the disease, giving special attention to ventilation, the disinfection of the patient's linen, food utensils, the precautions to be taken in spitting, and proper food.

The Health Visitor may also attend the tuberculosis dispensary where she gives out the medicine, weighs the patients, prepares the necessary cards, and assists the doctor.

Some of the Duties

In the early days of school medical inspection the chief work was the finding out of unhealthy conditions of the scholars, and very little of treatment was possible under the 1908 Act, but after several years of inspecting and tabulating and recording heights and weights, and verminous and disease conditions, Parliament sanctioned and gave grants for organised treatment and the establishment of school clinics, "special schools" for physically and mentally defective children, and the whole work made a great forward move and nurses as Health Visitors were given many new duties, such as :—

(1) Medical inspection—assisting at the routine examination of the children in age groups (on entrances, intermediates, and leavers); preparing children for examination who have been reported by the teachers to be suffering from defects.
(2) Following up the cases in school and in the home.
(3) Assisting at clinics and giving treatment; treating minor ailments, ears, eyes, dental; X-ray, ultra-violet ray; care of equipment.
(4) Taking children to and from hospital.
(5) Attending special schools; doing dressings; supervising during play and meal times; and taking the children home.
(6) Visiting schools at irregular intervals between the visits of the School Medical Officer in order to discover, supervise, and treat dirty and verminous children, and to detect infectious and contagious diseases.

School Inspection

The Health Visitor doing school inspection visits the school in advance of the doctor and does systematic inspection. She examines the children's skin, hair, and clothes; weighs and measures the children; tests their vision, fills in all the necessary forms, and has everything ready for the doctor's coming, when she will be free to assist him. She discusses what she has observed, and gets instructions regarding the treatment he wishes carried out.

Health visiting, as it is known to-day, has become part of the Public Health Service, administered by local authorities, recognised and supported by the State, and Miss Swanson emphasises that it is essential that the Health Visitor appointed should devote her whole time to public health and work directly under the Medical Officer of Health. She suggests that the time has come when the conditions of service could be improved, and this might be done by grading of Health Visitors. Where a number of Health Visitors are employed a supervisor or an assistant supervisor might be appointed—practical experience of the Health Visitor to be considered. This would offer a chance of promotion to the most able and best type of women to the service, and also greatly facilitate the work of a Public Health Department as a whole.

MR. HENRY BROWN, City Treasurer of Rochester, who discussed the problems of the financial officer at the Cambridge Summer School.

FUTURE OF CIVIC PLANNING

(*Continued from page* 628)

Despite these and other grounds for criticism, local authorities both need and deserve the support and appreciation of the public for their planning activities. Without that support the movement cannot expect to gain the additional strength and vision it urgently needs.

Many intelligent and attractive ideas have been conceived and even put into practice here and there; satellite towns in place of overgrown suburb-laden conglomerations, parkways in place of ugly arterial roads infested with ribbon development, accessible green girdles encircling our cities in place of long and exhausting journeys to the countryside, factories and offices decentralised and within easy reach of residential areas in place of the invading hordes of workers surging in and out of the cities each day. All this and much else is now within our reach. We have but to grasp it.

If we make the fullest use of our opportunities to-day, the so-called prosperity of the past will come to seem a poor thing compared with the welfare which can be attained under the new order. It is evident that there has been a great change of outlook, a transformation of ideals, during the past thirty years. Nevertheless, we must remember that the main structure of our local government system was laid down in the nineteenth century, and it is to that system that we now look to redress the evils of the past. Let that, at least, be put to the credit of the Victorians.

STOCKPORT AND HAZEL GROVE CRICKET

On the ground of the Norbury Cricket Club, a game at cricket was played between the Hazel Grove and Stockport branches of N.A.L.G.O. Stockport declared their innings closed with the score at 91 for 8 wickets. Birtles batted well for his 33, which contained seven 4's, while in Evison's score of 20 there was one 6 and three 4's. Hazel Grove fared rather disastrously, and 7 wickets were down for 36, but the score eventually reached 60. Roberts was top scorer with 22 to his credit, while Crompton showed good cricket in his score of 16.

SCOTTISH DISTRICT NOTES

On the last Saturday of July, there was a meeting of the Argyll Branch in Lochgilphead, over which Dr. Guy, the president, presided. Mr. A. Jardine, Public Assistance Officer, Oban, was appointed the new secretary and treasurer of the branch. The questions of superannuation, grading, and Whitley Councils were discussed. With regard to a superannuation scheme for the County, it was explained that the necessary particulars were now being collected from the employees as to their length of service, etc., and that an actuarial estimate would be made when these particulars were received. The proposed grading scheme was still before the County Council, and it was hoped that some definite decisions would be reached at an early date. The D.S., who was in attendance, explained the position with regard to the Compulsory Superannuation Bill and how the Bill had been withdrawn this session on the understanding that, when introduced next session, it would receive Government support. He also spoke on the proposed setting up of a National Whitley Council for Scotland, and the meeting unanimously agreed to support the principle of Whitleyism.

The Burgh of Stirling has now adopted a Superannuation Scheme under the Act of 1922, and we learn that Grangemouth Town Council and Fraserburgh Town Council have decided to obtain actuarial reports, with a view to the adoption of schemes.

The Whitley Council Conference

Many members will be aware that tentative arrangements were being made for the holding of a conference of representatives of the larger local authorities and of our Scottish Council with a view to the setting up of a Whitley Council for Scotland. Arrangements were on foot for the Ministry of Labour to convene this Conference for September 22, Glasgow Corporation have, however, at the moment, a remit to a Committee to report on the whole question of affiliation to the various Industrial or Whitley Councils at present in being, and the Ministry consider it inadvisable to convene the proposed Conference until Glasgow has come to a decision on the question.

Mr. Hill is to spend a week or ten days visiting branches in Scotland about the middle of September. It has been thought advisable that his visits should be paid to branches in outlying areas away from industrial centres. At the moment of writing, tentative arrangements have been made for most of the meetings, but one or two dates have yet to be fixed up.

We trust that our members have duly noted September 15 for our Annual Sports Day at Bridge of Allan. This has always been one of the pleasantest social events of the year, and members from a' the airts are present on that occasion.

The golf competitions will be played over the Dunblane Golf Course; the bowling tournaments will be held at Bridge of Allan on Airthrey Spa and Bridge of Allan Bowling Greens. There will be a rink competition for a trophy and prizes, the prizes being awarded to the winners and runners-up in each game, which will consist of fifteen ends. The mixed doubles American tennis tournament will be decided on the Bridge of Allan Corporation Courts, and a trophy and prizes will be awarded. The entrance fee is 2s. 6d. per player in each event, and no competitor may enter for more than one competition. Golf will commence at 9 a.m., and bowls and tennis at 10.30 a.m.

Scottish Eastern Border Counties Branch

Mr. George Carnegie, after thirty-five years' service in Melrose, has retired from the post of Area Public Assistance Officer. Mr. Carnegie was a most popular official both with the public and with his Council. He served on the first committee of the Scottish Eastern Border Counties Branch of N.A.L.G.O., and was prominently identified with its formation.

Miss Jean M. Carlyle, Hawick, hitherto principal assistant to the Roxburgh County Chief Public Assistance Officer, has been appointed Area Public Assistance Officer in Melrose to succeed Mr. Carnegie.

Mr. Andrews M. Dickson, Newtown St. Boswells, formerly in the offices of the County Medical Officer of Health, for Roxburghshire, has been appointed assistant to the Western Area Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. James Morrison, Newtown St. Boswells, has been appointed to a staff clerkship in the County Offices, Dumfries, and on leaving Roxburghshire was presented by his colleagues with a camera to mark their good wishes.

RECENT NOVELS

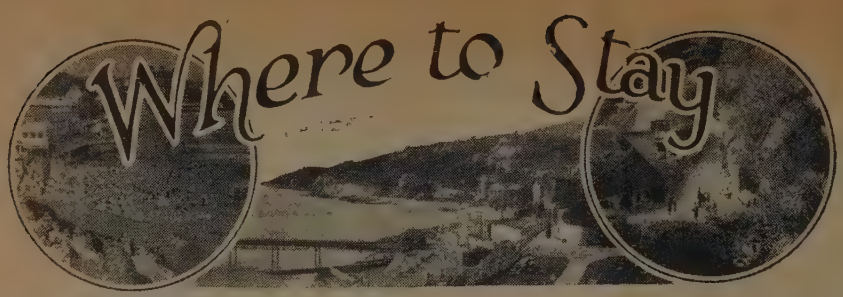
The captain-hero of George Goodchild's newest sample of amazement matches well with McLean, the author's notable creation of earlier days. But Captain and Doc (Zollen, in full) are closer matched in Mr. Goodchild's "Quest of Nigel Rix" (Ward, Lock, 7s. 6d. net). There is a secret mystery known to them and one or two others which Captain Nigel is born to expose. The lure of it leads on to desert wastes, across trackless lands, and far as east can go. Transport by camel always sounds alluring, and one may pass with him through many a perilous borderland on the disarming pretence of archaeology. Needless to say, Rix achieves his quest with all the surprise and éclat to which the reader of thrillers is entitled. And for the rest—"Tell it not in Gath," Mr. Goodchild answers all.

* * *

In "Gold is King" (Ward, Lock, 3s. 6d. net), Ottwel Binns has at least a truism for his title. The story shows something more, when that king of kings named Love makes his own terms in a partnership of rich romance. Jimmy Carfield, prospecting for gold in Klondike, is welcomed with the usual consignment of bullets and other murder-gang methods reserved for freshmen by the diggers. But there is another ride. His friends the Townsends can help in answer on his behalf, and Tim O'Hagan, too; so with a much less than fair fight there's gold to share out in the end, and Carfield shares it best of all with Miss Betty.

NEW UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

"The New Unemployment Act" (Longmans Green & Co., 9d.) is written by Mr. Ronald C. Davison, one of the foremost authorities on the unemployment question. It describes in simple language and with admirable lucidity the provisions of the Unemployment Act, 1934, and summarising the whole revised system of unemployment insurance and unemployment assistance. Mr. Davison's gift for exposition and natural clarity of style have enabled him to make the innovation and the somewhat complicated machinery of the new Act appear comparatively straightforward. The amount of insurance benefits, the way in which the money is found, and the extent of the new insurance card are fully described, as well as the major feature of the new Act—the scheme of unemployment assistance, which involves the constitution of the Unemployment Assistance Board, of the Local Committee, and the Appeals Tribunal. To complete the picture, the author gives a brief account of the Government training centres, instructional centres, summer camps, physical training classes, and voluntary occupation centres. Mr. Davison's handbook should be read by all local government officers—and, indeed, by all citizens who wish to learn how the Government is tackling one of the most urgent and difficult problems of our age.—*C. K. W.*



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NOTE NEW ADDRESS

BLACKPOOL, N.S.—**8 EGERTON ROAD,** adjoining promenade, five minutes North Station. Convenient for golf, tennis, and putting greens. Apartments, Bed and Breakfast, or Full Board. Terms reasonable.—Proprietress : **MRS. HOWARD.**

BLACKPOOL.—Latham and Unsworth, 95 Albert Road. Electric, and running water each bedroom. Board-residence. Midday dinner. Terms moderate. Highly recommended. 'Telephone: Blackpool 860.

BLACKPOOL, N.S.—Smith, 27, Shaftesbury Avenue, one minute Promenade. Adjoining Golf Course. Garage. Phone North Shore 51154. Reasonable terms, excellent catering and highly recommended.

BLACKPOOL.—"Victoria Private Hotel," North Promenade. Finest position; h. and c. water in all bedrooms; central heating; passenger lift.—Write for tariff.

BOGNOR REGIS.—Comfortable Board-Residence. Highly recommended "Home from Home." Terms from 2 gns. weekly. Central.—Cathay, Linden Road.

BOURNEMOUTH.—**"Eversley,"** Durley Rd. (board-residence). Ideal situation on west cliff. Own grounds. **One minute sea,** near pier, pavilion, and all attractions. H. & C. water in bedrooms. Separate tables. Excellent and varied menu. Congenial Company. **ENJOY YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY!** Comfort, cleanliness, and good cooking. **Personally Assured. "Nalgoites"** highly recommended.—Mr. and Mrs. Pyne (late of Newark, St. Michaels Road).

BRIDLINGTON.—Shirley Private Hotel, 12 Marine Drive. Unrivalled position sea-front. Hot and cold water and electric light throughout. Eggs and poultry from our own farm. Yorkshire cooking and catering at its best. Highly recommended. Write for tariff to Mrs. L. G. Morton, Hostess. Garage. 'Phone 3326.

BRIGHTON.—21 Clifton Terrace. Charming, unique position. Sea view. Select Board Residence. N.A.L.G.O. members welcomed. Moderate terms. Highly recommended.—Nield.

BRIGHTON.—"Arundel," 41 Norfolk Square. Homely little Boarding House. Bright, clean, comfortable. Good cooking. Highly recommended. Close to sea, shopping centre, 'bus routes.—Miss Morris.

BRIGHTON.—Delightful Holiday Quarters, facing gardens and sea. Comfortable and homely, five minutes Aquarium. Excellent catering, separate tables, smoking and sun lounges. Bath (c.h.w.). From 42s. weekly; 7s. 6d. daily.—Adams, 10 Marine Square.

CLIFTONVILLE, MARGATE.—Seaton Grange, Private Hotel, Surrey Road. Minute sea, excellent reputation for comfort, catering, service. 'Terms 3 to 4 guineas.—Mrs. L. G. Dowle.

CLIFTONVILLE.—"Courtlands," Athelstan Road. Superior Board-Residence, adjoining sea-front, opposite bathing pool and cafes. Good catering. 'Phone Margate 1249.

COLWYN BAY.—Board-Residence, Bed and Breakfast, or Apartments. Near sea, golf, and tennis grounds. Moderate terms.—Mrs. E. Jones, Briarside, York Road.

DOUGLAS, I.O.M.—"Cliftonville," Clifton Terrace, Broadway. Tea, Bed, Breakfast, 5/6. Full Board, 7/6. Sea View. Minute Prom.—Holmes.

EASTBOURNE.—Adjoining front, close pier, music. Homely Board-Residence. July and September, 45s.; October, 40s. Stamp.—Goodman, 10 St. Aubyns Road.

EASTBOURNE.—Clean, comfortable Apartments, with attendance; board if required. Near pier and bandstands; recommended. Stamp.—Mrs. Radband, 6 Belmore Road.

HASTINGS.—Board Residence, 35s.; August, 42s. Sitting-room, piano, 4 meals daily. Minute sea and station. October to April, 30s. Stamp.—Rub, 18 Devonshire Terrace.

HASTINGS.—"Holmesdale" Private Hotel, Holmesdale Gardens. Highly recommended; near sea. From 42s. to 63s., according season, room. Proprietresses ex-Nalgo members.

HASTINGS.—"Mildmay." Christian Alliance of Women and Girls Holiday Hostel, book early for July, August and September. Good table; for terms apply Warden.

HOVE.—27 Pembroke Crescent. Homely modern Guest House. Liberal table, good cooking. Comfortable beds. Moderate terms.—Mrs. Heath. Telephone: 5554.

LLANDUDNO.—"Llys Madoc," Charlton St. Board-residence, central for all amusements. Mid-day dinner. Separate tables. Moderate terms; highly recommended by N.A.L.G.O. members.—Mrs. E. J. Leach.

LONDON.—Russell House Hotel, W.C.1, Guildford Street, Russell Square. For holiday or permanent residence. H. & C. water, public lounge, writing, and billiard rooms. B. & B. 5/- to 6/- daily, with dinner 7/6 to 8/6. Mod. weekly rates.

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MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM.—The Balmoral, 34 Marine Road, West Promenade, Public, Private, Board Residence, unrivalled position.—Mrs. Mortimer. 'Phone 270.

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WHAT OUR READERS SAY

COST OF LIVING INDEX

To the Editor,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—In reply to colleagues Barker and Hutt, would state that I have a clear idea of the position of several districts where salaries are nsufficient. N.A.L.G.O., with a view to mproving this state, adopted a scale to bring about some uniformity of payment in all districts. N.A.L.G.O., by doing so, acknowledged that a stabilised salary should be paid o the municipal servant and not a varying mount over short periods, according to cost of living index. Where salaries are insufficient pplication should be made for the N.A.L.G.O. cale, and only where a greater salary would ccrue by another method of calculation would leparture therefrom be justified.

As an association with a National Scale, N.A.L.G.O., it seems to me, would place itself n a ludicrous position to seek or give its upport to another basis of salary calculation, whether the resultant salary be greater or less han N.A.L.G.O.'s scale. I cannot envisage he Society of M.O.H.'s supporting any alary less than the recognised minimum.

I earnestly hope Manchester will achieve heir desire, and if N.A.L.G.O.'s scale is the better, not to apply for anything less. N.A.L.G.O. cannot adopt a scale and officially upport something less. (In passing, I know of officers receiving 50 points and 75 points onus, and there may be lower and higher imits).

Yours, etc.,

ARTHUR SHILLITO,

Tottenham.

COMPULSORY SUPERANNUATION DEMAND

To the Editor,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—We have read, in the August Journal, he article dealing with the Ministry's reply to he Nalgo Deputation.

You are aware that in the report of the N.E.C. o the Annual Conference at Scarborough, it is tated, on page 18, that the proposed Bill would be a simple measure dealing only with ompulsory superannuation, and that amendments to the 1922 Act would form the basis of a further Bill after the compulsory Bill becomes aw.

The unfortunate minority of Nalgo members fill without any superannuation provisions ndorsed this policy, feeling that the amendments to existing measures should follow at a nore opportune time. Surely these members of N.A.L.G.O. are entitled to an explanation rom the N.E.C. as to why the Bill was submitted to Parliament in two parts (part one to make the 1922 Act compulsory and part two ontaining amendments to the 1922 Act), nd also as to why the Council departed from he policy set out in the Conference Report.

That which the Council themselves feared, nd stated quite clearly in the report, has happened. Sir Arthur Robinson was in favour of the principle of the Bill, but because, in its present form, it deals with one or two controversial matters and was not an agreed Bill, t has been withdrawn, presumably, until next session.

There is just the hope that if the Association evert to the policy set out in the conference eport, the compulsory Bill might be accepted s a Government measure in the next session.

Yours, etc.,

B. BISHOP,

M. JENNER.

Tonbridge, Kent.

HOME GARDENING

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens," "The Wright Encyclopædia of Gardening," etc.

OF the various effects on garden plants of a dry summer, one of the most regrettable is the smaller quantity of new shoots produced by Rambler Roses. Taking the varieties as a whole, there is barely more than half the length of fresh wood at the time of writing that is produced in a normal season. What obligations devolve on the grower? Surely to remove all faded clusters of blooms as early as possible and to follow that up at the first opportunity by cutting out such of the older wood as is two years or more old in order to give the new rods every chance of lengthening and strengthening during late summer and early autumn. In the ordinary way I should include in the pruning process all last year's canes which do not bear young canes on the lower half (merely shortening these); but perhaps that extreme might be deferred for a month or two, so that the progress of the fresh shoots can be watched. If the crop remains scanty towards the close of autumn, so that the poles cannot be furnished sufficiently with good new canes, a certain proportion of last year's might be preserved.

Pillar Roses

Pillar Roses which have been established for several years are pretty certain to be dry at the roots after the parching summer, in which case mildew is likely to establish itself on them; moreover, the power of the roots to push fresh new canes must necessarily be reduced. I believe it would be well worth while to make holes with a crowbar not far from the canes and pour down water and liquid manure. Injury to the roots would be negligible compared with the benefit from the food, which would compensate amply for any slight root disturbance.

Both Gladioli and Sweet Peas threatened premature closure late in July, but the rains and clouded skies in early August came to the rescue, encouraging fresh shoots and flowers on the Peas and retarding early withering on the Gladioli. It may interest my readers if I mention that among large-flowered Gladioli Mount Everest, Scarlet Emperor, Nancy Hanks, Jacoba Van Beiren, Trudel Grotz, Apricot, Yvonne, Early Sunrise and Pfitzer's Triumph have not only displayed high individual quality, but have made a very agreeable harmony in a lawn bed. As many people value a really good pure white large-flowered Gladiolus, I direct particular attention to Mount Everest. White as the driven snow, the bells are very solid and stand on the spike in two perfectly balanced rows. In the Primula-flowered section Innocence (ivory coloured, not white), Krelage's Favourite as a red, with Salmon Beauty, Salmonea, Souvenir, Orange Queen and Xanthia among the yellow, salmon and orange shades, stand out. Maiden's Blush also has merit. Notes of all the foregoing Gladioli might be made for next year.

If some of my Sweet Pea-loving readers enjoy conditions favourable for autumn sowing, I suggest that they get the seed in by the end of this month or the early part of October.

Prices of Bulbs

Judging by the first bulb catalogues which came along in August, Hyacinths, Tulips and Narcissi are all going to be reasonable in price. I am glad to note that many firms offer Hyacinths of the same varieties in different sizes, specified in centimetres. Thus one can get such good varieties as King of the Blues, Moreno (salmon pink) and Queen of the Whites, to mention three only, in sizes ranging from 12-14 cm. ('Cynthellas') to 19 cm. ('top size'), the prices corresponding. It is not in the least necessary to get the 19 cm. size for bowls, the 15-16 cm. answering quite well; most Hyacinth glasses are so large at the mouth, however, that the largest size is required.

I am not greatly impressed with the encomiums in the catalogues on white Roman Hyacinths for Christmas flowering, for Romans even at 5d. to 6d. each are not always reliable, and, moreover, are not easy to "time": on the contrary, I agree with those who consider they get better value and deeper satisfaction with the "prepared" or "Herald" type, albeit the bulbs flower somewhat later. Hyacinth-lovers rightly prize pure white Hyacinths and strive for the best obtainable. Is there, however, a "best" white? One catalogue roundly describes Correggio as "the finest white ever raised." But is it better than Arentine Arendsen, or even than the older La Grandesse and L'Innocence, or Queen of White? The truth is that we are the lucky possessors of a quintette of first class whites, and for my own part, I have never been able to decide which I like best. Matters are a little, though not a great deal, easier with pinks and blues. I am just able to decide that if I were reduced to one pink (which Heaven forbid!) it would be Lady Derby. For a blue, I would take Enchantress, tearful, however, at having to forgo Queen of the Blues and Myosotis, both lovely sorts.

Remember, please, that Daffodils are the better for early planting, and, consequently, if there is a store of them preserved from previous plantings, they should be put in directly ground becomes vacant. Nor should dried-off Tulips be left in store longer than is absolutely necessary. It is wise to plant Snowdrops early.

Chrysanthemums

Autumn-flowering Chrysanthemums are forward, and the question of disbudding arises. It is not necessary unless flowers are wanted for cutting, in which case it should be practised; otherwise there will be insufficient length of stem, for as with Roses, Carnations and many other plants, buds which are allowed to open in clusters are too short-stemmed to be convenient for arranging in vases. If Chrysanthemums are to be lifted from a nursery bed, and transferred to a more prominent place, take care to chop round the plants with a spade a few days before the removal, afterwards shifting during the first wet spell.

Those who layered Carnations a few weeks ago may soon take an opportunity in showery weather of passing a knife through the stems on the parent-plant side and pot the rooted layers up for wintering in a frame, unless, indeed, they are to be bedded-out to stand the winter. I prefer the frame for Carnations, but not for Pansies, which are better wintered in the open. Cuttings of Pansies and Violas, or rather young basal shoots which have a few rootlets and are therefore not strictly cuttings, can often be inserted at this season with advantage.

I hope my readers continue to be free from Antirrhinum disease, in which case, they may now, if they wish, take a batch of cuttings, choosing young flowerless shoots, for wintering in a frame or on the shelf of a cool greenhouse. Alternatively, they may sow seed in boxes and give similar treatment. People who like to have strong Antirrhinums early in spring, and who also have adequate glass, often practise this autumn sowing with satisfactory results.

Look out, too, for tufty young shoots at the base of Pentstemons and shrubby Calceolarias towards the end of the present month or in the first half of October, because if these are taken off, inserted firmly in boxes of sandy soil, and given the shelter of an unheated frame, they will make nice stuff for next year's planting.

Lawns have suffered from the dry summer, and there may be patches on which it would be wise to sow seed. Or it may be that a new

(*Continued on page* 636, *column* 3)

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Newport (Mon.)

The Newport (Mon.) Branch N.A.L.G.O. Bowls Club is having a very happy first season. Nearly all the fifty members are beginners, but enthusiasm, combined with natural aptitude, has resulted in some very keen games. Twenty-four fixtures have been arranged, including Cardiff, Barry, Glamorgan, and Somerset Branches. The interest in South Wales and Monmouthshire is sufficiently strong to justify an extension next season of this form of social activity between branches.

Beverley and District

This branch held its annual outing on July 8, when twenty-three members and friends spent a very enjoyable day. A tour was made through the Dukeries, visiting Worksop, Budby, Edwinstowe, where a visit was paid by the majority of the members to the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest. From here, Ollerton was next passed; then on to Cresswell Crags, Thoresby Deer Park, the famous Lime Tree Avenue at Clumber and Carburton Lakes. Through Welbeck Park, the road brought the party back to Worksop.

Gloucester

The Gloucester Municipal Officers and their wives spent a most enjoyable time on Thursday, July 19, when Alderman Mrs. Siveter invited them to tea and an evening party at the Sheep-house. Some 120 accepted the invitation. The Mayor and Mayoress, Deputy Mayor, and City High Sheriff and Mrs. Clutterbuck were present. After tea (which was served by Mrs. Stanley Smith) the party took part in a treasure hunt for articles hidden in various parts of the gardens, the prize for the greatest number of finds going to Miss Ravenhill. A whist drive followed, the prize winners being: *Ladies, 1st,* Mrs. Willis; *2nd,* Mrs. Derrett; *3rd,* Miss Whiteley; *consolation,* Miss Hartwright. *Gentlemen, 1st,* Mr. W. H. Bubb; *2nd,* Mr. A. W. Baylis; *3rd,* Mr. J. J. Money; *consolation,* Mr. W. C. Barber. The Treasurer's Department were the winners in a keenly contested tug-of-war, and the evening ended with dancing. A hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Siveter was proposed by the City High Sheriff, and Mrs. Siveter responded.

West Riding County Officers' Branch

The Don Valley Area Section, in June, commenced the issue of monthly notes which deal under twelve different headings with national and local affairs in a very informative manner. The object of the issue of the notes is stated to be not to encroach upon the official organ of the West Riding County Officers' Branch, *The Luminary*, but to keep local members well informed as to what is being done on their behalf.

Eastleigh

An interesting ceremony preceded the monthly meeting of the Eastleigh Council in July. This took the form of a presentation to the Town, made by the local branch of N.A.L.G.O. through the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Cuthbertson, M.A., of a badge of office to be worn by the present chairman and succeeding chairmen of the Council. The badge embodies the Coat of Arms and motto recently adopted by the Council. In making the presentation the Clerk referred to the very pleasant relationship existing between the officials and members of the council. In reply, the chairman, Mr. A. H. Quilley, J.P., thanked the members of N.A.L.G.O. and said that the presentation was rather unique, and in keeping with the progressive policy of Eastleigh.

A MAN
AND HIS HAIR
ARE SOON PARTED

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and it's a deuce of a job to get them together again. *But* BRYLCREEM *can do it.* Falling hair is often caused by the use of inferior hairdressings which set hard and prevent the air getting through the hair to the scalp, also a hard deposit forms on the scalp, choking the pores. Thus are caused all manner of ills to which the hair is heir, among which Scurf and Dandruff are perhaps the best known and most dreaded. Brylcreem *contains no Gum* and keeps the hair soft and supple, yet by its gentle insistence, *perfect control of the most unruly hair* is obtained. Because Brylcreem contains a higher content of tonic properties it definitely checks dandruff, scurf, falling hair, etc., and encourages the growth of the hair. Where Brylcreem is used, dry scalps cannot exist.

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NALGO SPORT

Bolton and District

The annual golf competition, for which 3 entries were received, was played over th Dunscar Course on July 24. The prize awarde for the lowest nett score was won by Mr. F. J Atkinson (Borough Engineer's Department) and that for the lowest nett (secret nine holes) were gained by Mr. W. L. Wardle (Publi Health Department), the awards being made a the close of the competition by Mr. John P Ainsworth, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E. (Waterwork Engineer), Vice-President of the branch. Th arrangements were carried through by Mr. S Heyworth, Golf Competition Secretary.

North Eastern Bowls Match

An enjoyable afternoon was spent at Durhar on August 4 when a bowls match was playe between members of the North-Eastern Muni cipal Officers' Bowls League and officials o several towns from South Durham and Nortl Yorkshire. Some very keen play was witnessed and a close game ended with the League winnin by 3 shots—67 to 64.

After the match the players assembled a the Dunelm Hotel for tea kindly arranged b Mr. Vivei (of Durham). Mr. Bradbury, Tow Clerk of Wallsend and chairman of the North Eastern League, explained that the principa object of the match was to instil sufficien enthusiasm in the southern members to form league composed of North Yorkshire and Soutl Durham officials similar to the North-Eastern If this was successful, the winners of eac league could play a deciding match to discove who were the champions of the north-easter district of N.A.L.G.O. The proposition wa fully discussed, and after questions had bee answered by the honorary secretary of th North-Eastern Municipal Officers' Bowl League (Mr. H. A. Strong), Mr. Rawden, o Middlesbrough, kindly consented to approac the various branches with a view to forming league.

Shropshire Golf Cup

The first annual competition for the Shrop shire N.A.L.G.O. Golf Challenge Cup (pre sented by Dr. T. R. Elliott) was held on th course of the Shrewsbury Golf Club o Saturday, June 9. There were sixteen entrie for the eighteen-holes-medal round, which wa won by Dr. T. R. Elliott with the excellen score of 79—9=70, J. M. Owen being runner-u with 92—18=74. Other leading scores were E. S. Knowles, 94—19=75; G. E. Hoddle 89—12=77; H. S. Wainwright, 97—20 77 H. W. Newman, 92—14=78; J. T. Waye 94—16=78; L. P. Groves, 92—13=79; S Keenan, 100—20=80.

Eugene Golf Association

The first meeting of the Leeds Subzone o the North-Eastern Zone was held at the San Moor Golf Course, Leeds, on August 12. Th weather was rather unkind—rain falling heavil until about 10.45 a.m., but the twelve enthu siasts who turned up were rewarded by bein able to play two rounds. The best card returned were: Mr. Beecham, Halifax, 9 (handicap, 18), net score, 75; Mrs. Whitaker Leeds, 92 (handicap, 16), net score, 76. Nex meeting is at Oakdale Golf Club, Harrogate, o September 8.

HOME GARDENING

(*Continued from page* 635)

lawn is to be made from seed, in which case, th sooner it is done the better, provided the groun is moist enough to be turned deeply so as t bury surface weeds well. The top soil ca hardly be made too fine and level; it should however, be firm. I would sow 1½ or eve 2 lb. of seed per square rod—say 1 lb. to eac area of approximately 15 square yards. Bird must be thought of. It is prudent to soak th seed in Horticol, which seedsmen offer, as preventive of attack.

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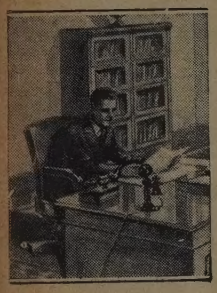

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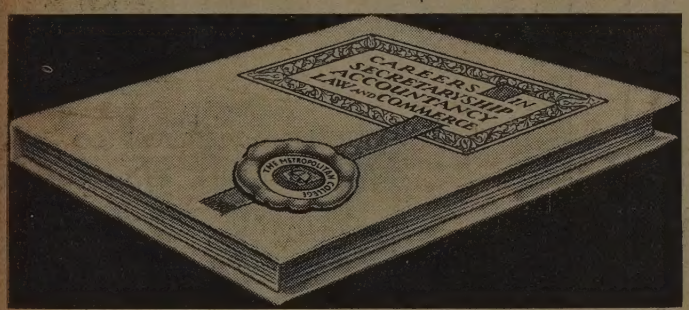

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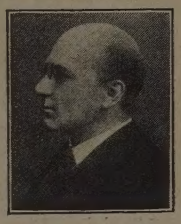

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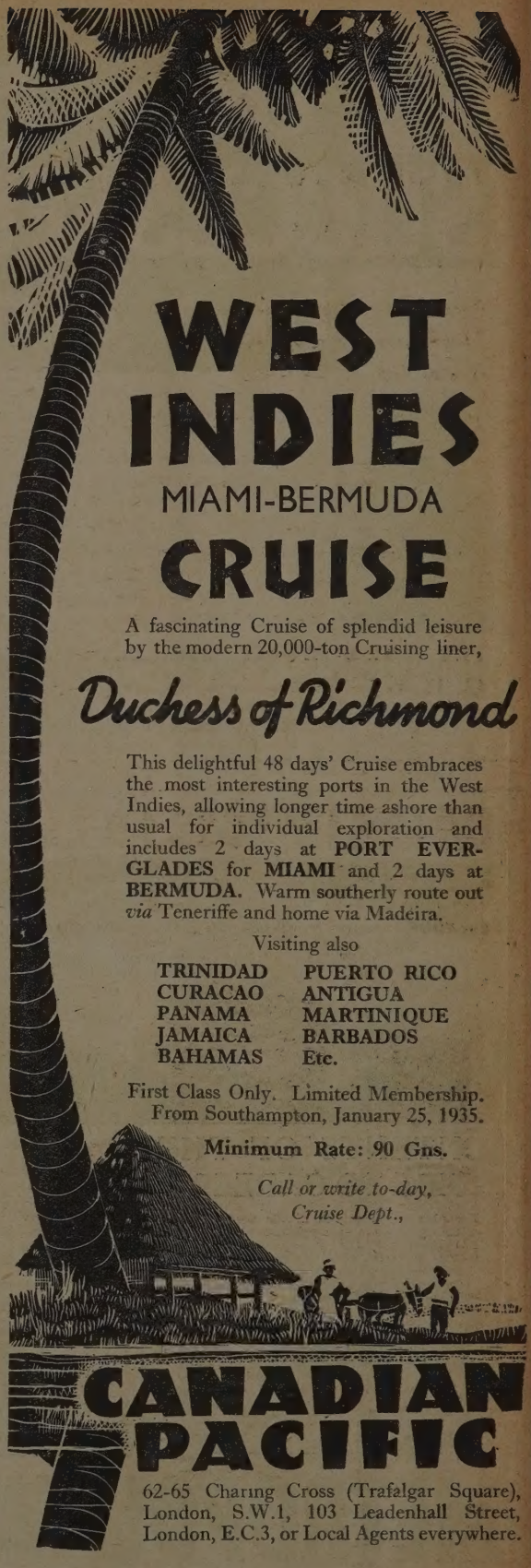

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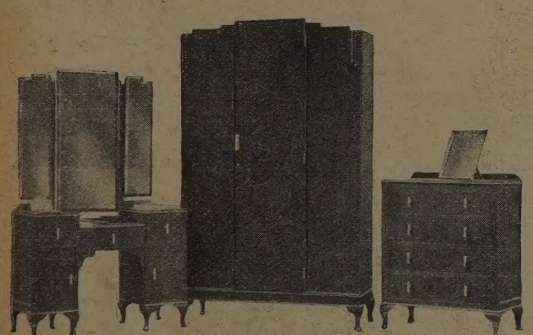

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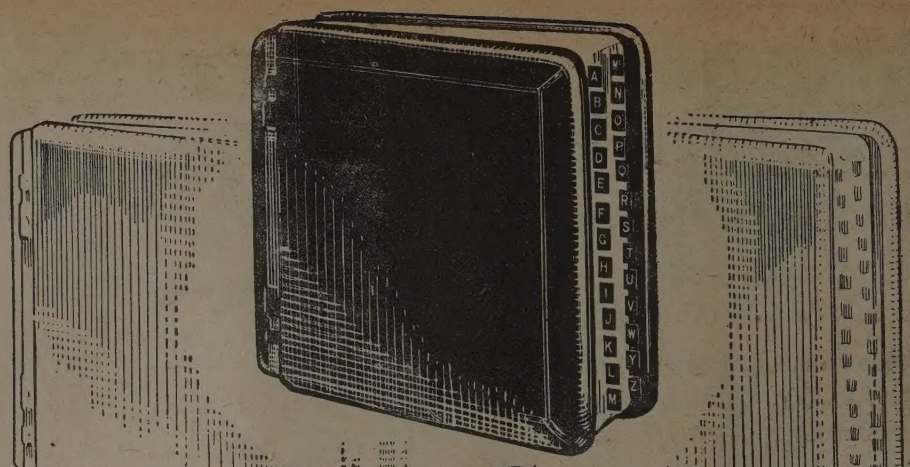

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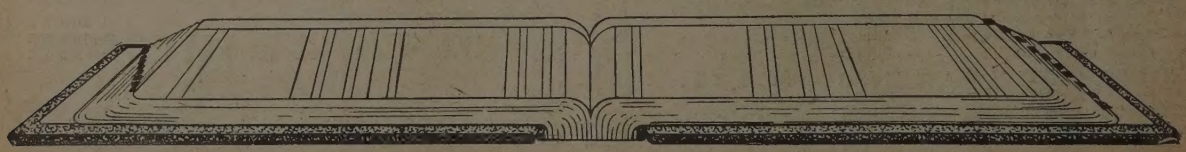

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